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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

SCAB CREEK WILDERNESS

IN

SUBLETTE COUNTY

STATE OF WYOMING

DRAFT STATEMENT

Lead and Preparation Agency

Bureau of Land Management

Cooperating Agencies

Geological Survey

Bureau of Mines

This environmental impact statement analyzes the environmental impacts of adding the present Scab Creek Primitive Area and 956 contiguous acres located in Sublette County, Wyoming, to the National Wilderness Preservation System. Two alternatives are also analyzed: (1) no action, and (2) adding only the present primitive area to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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Comments and questions should be addressed to Jerry Wilfong, Team Leader, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 1869, Rock Springs, Wyoming - 82901 (307-382-5350). Comments must be received by:



SUMMARY

This environmental impact statement (EIS) analyzes the environmental impacts of the proposed action and two alternatives. The proposed action is to recommend designation of the present Scab Creek Primitive Area (designated in 1975) and 956 contiguous acres for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The total acreage proposed for wilderness designation is 7,636. The general location of the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area is adjacent to the Bridger National Forest about 20 miles southeast of Pinedale, Wyoming, and 90 miles north of Rock Springs, Wyoming.

Management of the Scab Creek area as wilderness under the Wilderness Act of 1964 would result in allowing only those actions to occur which do not detract from the area's wilderness character.

The two alternatives considered in this EIS are a no-action alternative and an alternative whereby only the presently designated Scab Creek Primitive Area would be recommended for designation as wilderness.

The no-action alternative would result in rescinding the primitive area designation on the existing Scab Creek Primitive Area. Through the land use planning process, the existing Scab Creek Primitive Area and the 956 contiguous acres could be allocated to one or more of a variety of resource management options allowed under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). The Scab Creek Supplement to the Pinedale Management Framework Plan (MFP) recommends designation of the area as an Outstanding Natural Area.

The second alternative considered would result in recommending 6,680 acres, the existing Scab Creek Primitive Area, for wilderness designation. This would result in similar related resource management actions as the proposed action, but confined to the present primitive area. The 956 contiguous acres could be allocated to one or more of a variety of resource management options allowed under FLPMA. The Scab Creek MFP Supplement recommends the designation of these 956 contiguous acres as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

Little or no controversy exists concerning the proposal. Some concern has been expressed about water and range improvements; however, the majority of public comments are supportive of the proposed action.

PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of the proposed action is to recommend to the President of the United States and to Congress a course of action to protect identified wilderness values in the Scab Creek area by formal designation of the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area as wilderness under the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964. The need is to fulfill directives of the FLPMA under which the Secretary of the Interior directed BLM to study all public lands under its jurisdiction for wilderness potential and to review the wilderness potential of its natural and primitive areas designated before November 1, 1975 (wilderness Instant Study Areas (ISAs)). The Secretary of the Interior is required to report to the President his recommendations on the wilderness suitability of these ISAs by July 1, 1980.

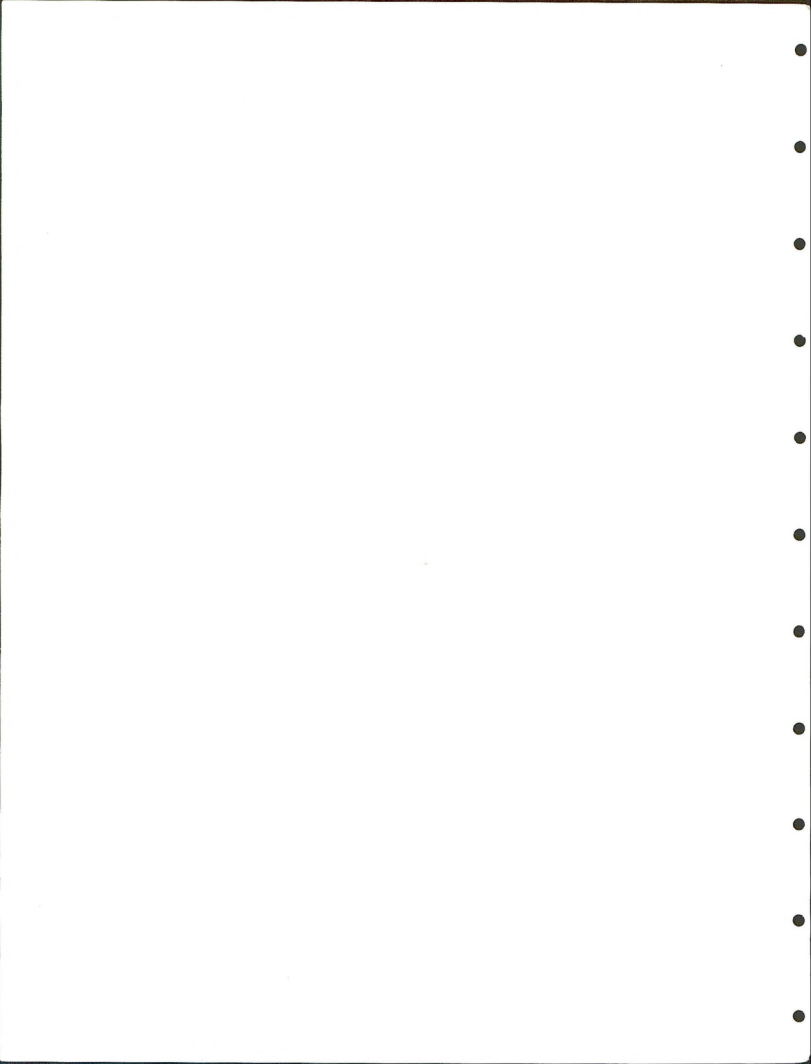


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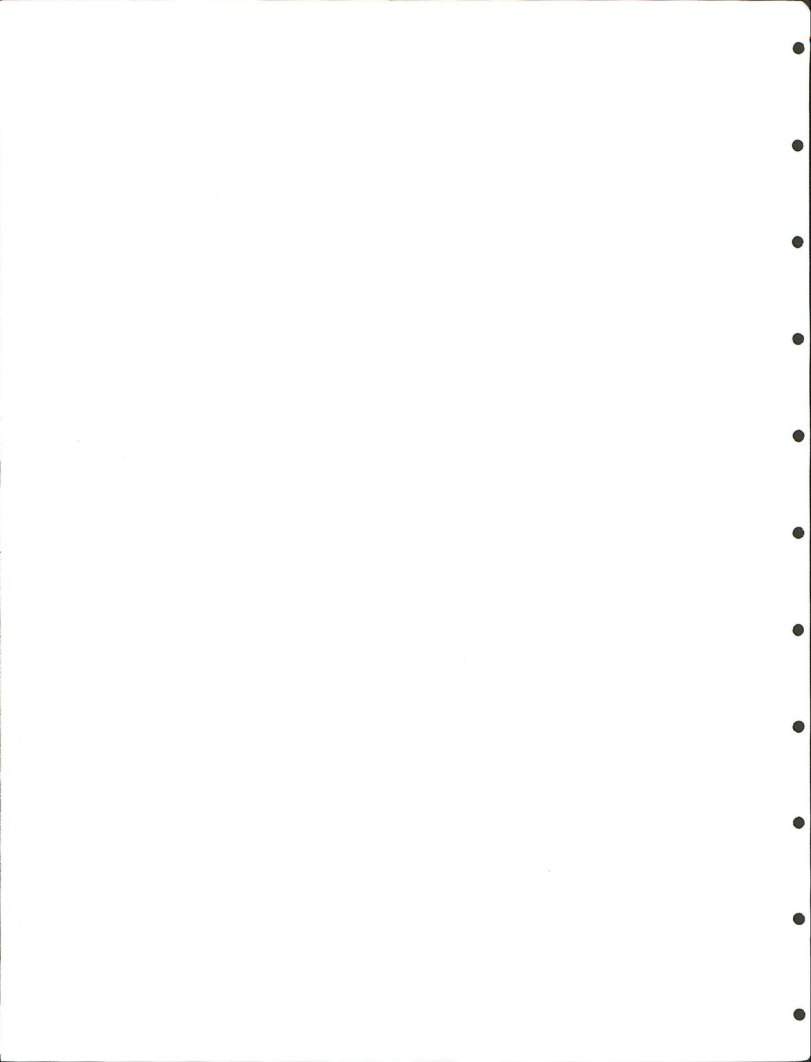
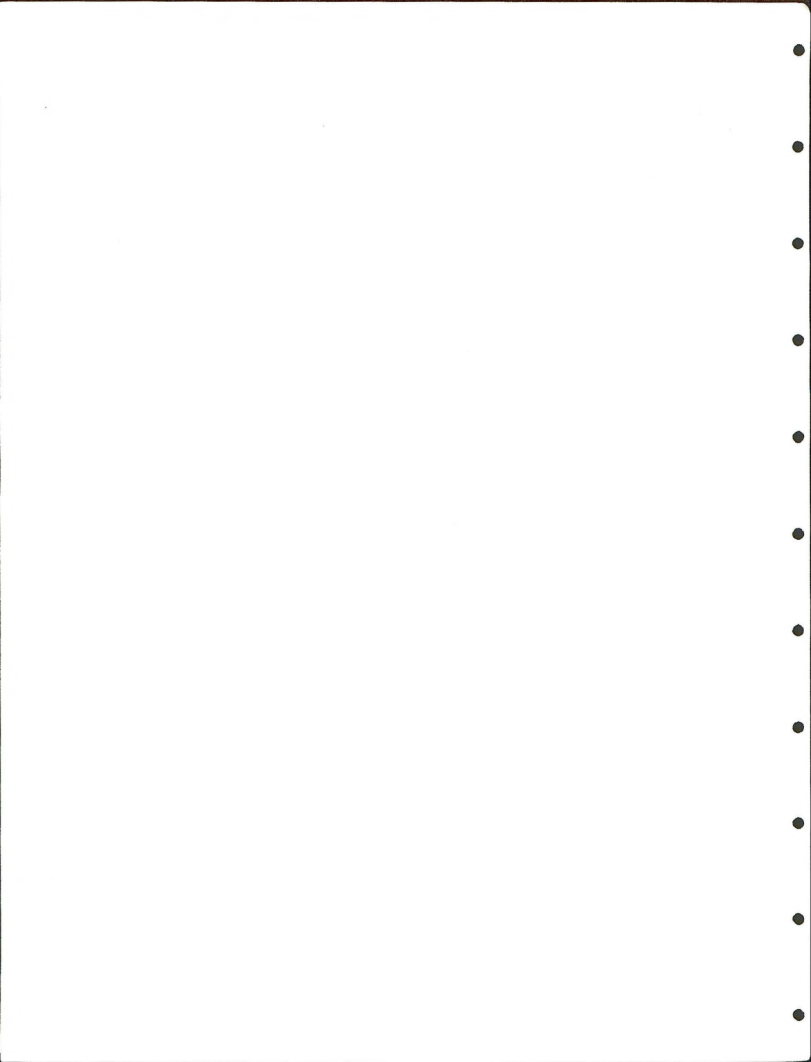


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CHAPTER 1

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to the Classification and Multiple Use Act of September 19, 1964, the lands in the existing Scab Creek Primitive Area, as well as those adjacent public lands, were classified for retention and management under multiple-use principles. One portion was classified on May 21, 1970 (*Federal Register*, Volume 35, Number 104, Thursday, May 28, 1970, Serial W-19140). A second adjacent portion was classified on December 11, 1970 (*Federal Register*, Volume 35, Number 245, Friday, December 18, 1970, Serial W-25810). These actions segregated most of the area proposed for wilderness from appropriation under the agricultural land laws, from sales under Section 2455 of the Revised Statutes (43 U.S.C. 1171), and from appropriation under the general mining laws (30 U.S.C. 21). Forty acres in the NE1/4NW1/4, of Section 12, T. 32 N., R. 107 W., were not so segregated and are presently being managed under the Classification and Multiple Use Act (C&MU), Taylor Grazing Act, and Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA).

Since designation as a primitive area on June 17, 1975, the 6,680-acre Scab Creek Primitive Area has been managed under the guidelines of Title 43, CFR, Section 6221. The management plan for the Scab Creek Primitive Area was patterned after the plan used by the Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, for the Bridger Wilderness. Under this plan the primitive area has been managed essentially as a wilderness area but without the protective mantle that wilderness designation gives. The contiguous acres have remained under multiple use management.

A total of 9,400 acres including and adjacent to the Scab Creek Primitive Area were reviewed for wilderness characteristics under Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964. Of the 9,400 acres studied, the Scab Creek Primitive Area and 956 contiguous acres (a total area of 7,636 acres) were determined to have wilderness characteristics and are proposed for wilderness designation (see wilderness designation in Glossary). The 956 contiguous acres are under multiple use management. The Scab Creek Supplement to the Pinedale MFP (available at the BLM Pinedale Resource Area Office) contains the recommendation (see Glossary) for wilderness designation.

This EIS analyzes the proposed action and alternatives in order to assess the environmental impacts of these actions. The analyses will aid the Secretary of the Interior in making his recommendation to the President for designation or nondesignation of the proposed area as wilderness. The President would review the recommendation of the Secretary and the alternatives and submit his own recommendation to the Congress in the form of a proposal for legislative action. Affirmative action by the legislative bodies would result in an Act for the designation of the area proposed by the President as a wilderness area along with any conditions unique to the area.

PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed action is to recommend to the President the designation of the Scab Creek Primitive Area and 956 contiguous acres as the Scab Creek Wilderness Area within the National Wilderness Preservation System, and if designated, manage the area pursuant to the guidelines and mandates of the Wilderness Act of 1964. A management plan would be developed for the area and would be similar to the Management Summary for the Instant Study Area (ISA) (Appendix 1).

Location

The proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area is located in Sublette County, Wyoming, adjacent to the Bridger National Forest about 20 miles southeast of Pinedale and 90 miles north of Rock Springs (Figure 1-1). The legal description of the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area is in Appendix 2.

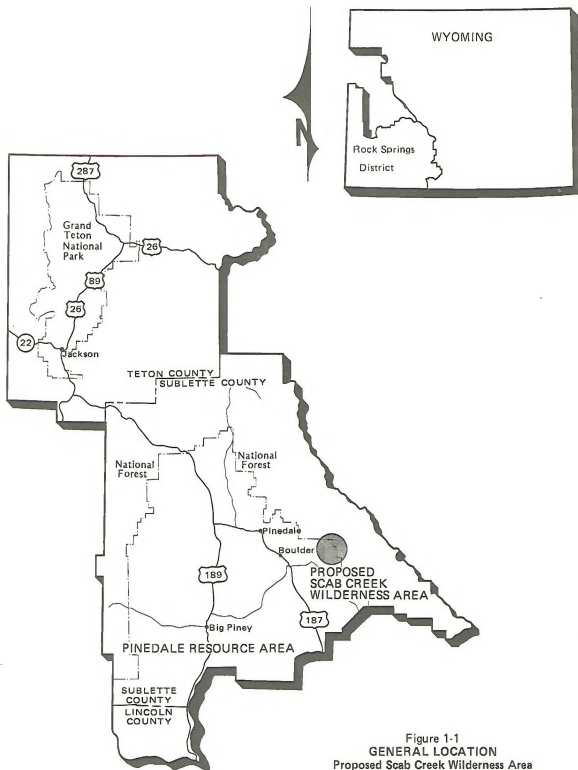


Figure 1-1
GENERAL LOCATION
Proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Land Status

All lands in the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area are public lands (Map 1-1), and the U.S. Government retains all mineral rights.

Related Resource Management Actions

Implementation of the proposed action through legislative action would preserve the wilderness values of the designated area. The implementation of a management plan for the area would be under the guidelines and mandates of the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the recommended decisions of the Scab Creek MFP Supplement.

The Scab Creek Supplement to the Sublette Unit Resource Analysis (URA), available at the BLM Pinedale Resource Area Office, does not identify any improvements which are needed to retain the wilderness character of the area. The MFP decision permits improvements to the area if it was designated wilderness as long as the improvements do not detract from the wilderness character. Improvements could be allowed as long as they are compatible with Bureau Wilderness Management Policy. The MFP also contains an air quality recommendation which is presented in subsequent paragraphs.

On July 16, 1979, the Department of the Interior recommended to Congress and the State of Wyoming and published a notice in the *Federal Register*, Volume 44, Number 175, September 7, 1979, that the Scab Creek Primitive Area (6,680 acres) be redesignated Class I under the Clean Air Act, Section 164(d). The Scab Creek Primitive Area is a major portion of the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area. As part of the MFP, it is recommended to the State of Wyoming that, should the proposed action be implemented, a Class I air quality designation be approved for the additional 956 contiguous acres as well as the Scab Creek Primitive Area. The total area that is recommended for designation to Class I air quality is 7,636 acres.

This designation, if approved, would be made by the State of Wyoming, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and is independent of but contingent upon the designation of the area under consideration as the Scab Creek Wilderness Area.

This designation would be compatible with the air quality designation of the Bridger Wilderness, which is currently Class I, and would assure the retention of the wilderness character as related to air quality of the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area.

Authorizing Actions

Congressional designation of the proposed area as wilderness would be needed before the area would become part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

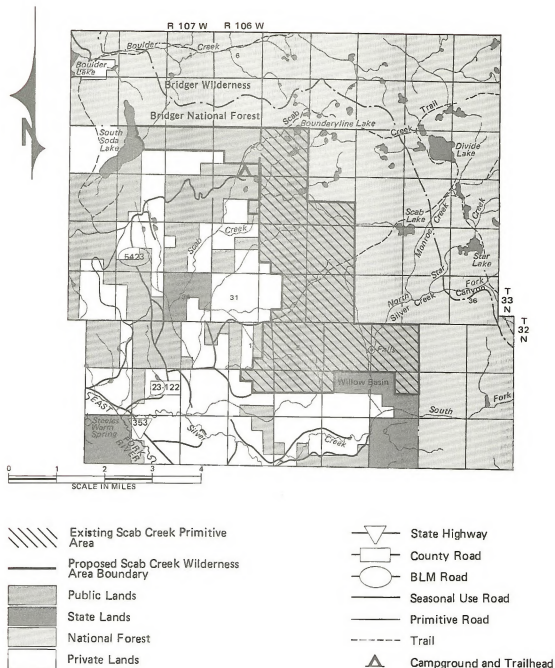
Interrelationships

BLM Planning System

The proposed area and other adjoining lands were studied in the BLM Scab Creek URA Supplement and the Scab Creek MFP Supplement prepared in 1979. The Scab Creek URA Supplement added information gathered during intensive resource inventories to the existing Sublette URA. The Scab Creek MFP Supplement made multiple-use recommendations on this small portion (less than 1%) of the Pinedale Planning Unit. These recommendations were based on the data presented in the URA in relation to the entire planning unit. The 7,636-acre proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area was determined to have wilderness characteristics in the URA. The MFP conflict analysis identified minor conflicts between wilderness designation and the management of mineral and forest resources. The probability of discovering oil and gas deposits is estimated to be less than 10% because of the area's location on the Wind River Uplift, and timber harvesting is uneconomical because of high road construction and logging costs in relation to resource value. The multiple use recommendation was for wilderness designation of the 7,636 acres.

Forest Service RARE II

The proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area is contiguous to a Bridger National Forest RARE II area which has been recommended by the President to Congress to be added to the existing Bridger Wilderness Designation of Scab Creek as a wilderness area would be compatible with the designation of this RARE II area.



Map 1-1
 SURFACE OWNERSHIP
 Proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Bridger Wilderness, Bridger National Forest

The proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area is located approximately one mile from the existing Bridger Wilderness managed by the Forest Service. Designation of Scab Creek as a wilderness area would be compatible with the management of the Bridger Wilderness.

ALTERNATIVES

No Action

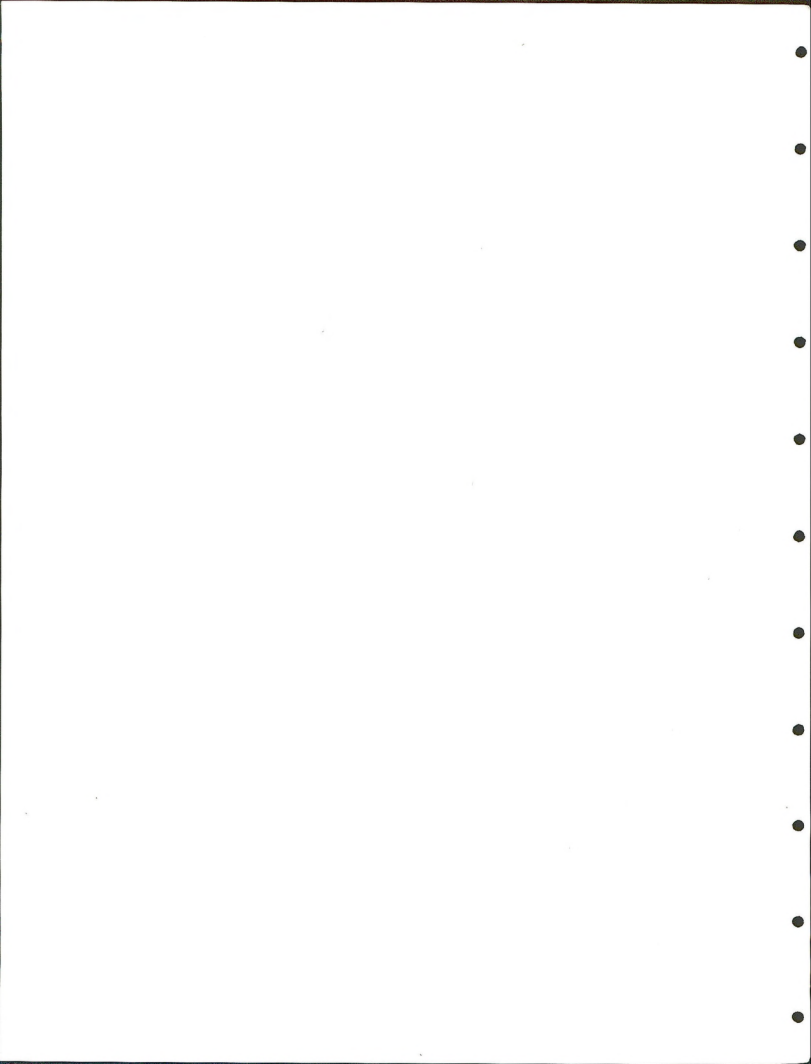
The no-action alternative would result in the primitive area designation being rescinded on the existing Scab Creek Primitive Area. The BLM Wyoming State Director could, through the land use planning process, allocate the entire 7,636 acres to one or more of a variety of resource management options allowed under FLPMA. The Scab Creek MFP Supplement recommends that, if the area is not designated wilderness, the area be designated as an Outstanding Natural Area. The natural area designation is in accord with 43 CFR 6225. Designation as an Outstanding Natural Area would allow preservation of scenic values and areas of natural wonder. The preservation of these resources in their natural condition would be the primary management objective. The public would be encouraged to walk into the area for recreational purposes (43 CFR 6225.0-5b). The MFP recommendations are to disallow any developments which would conflict with the preservation of the natural resources.

Primitive Area Only Designated as Wilderness

If this alternative is implemented, the existing 6,680-acre Scab Creek Primitive Area (see Map 1-1) would be recommended for wilderness designation. The State Director could, through the land use planning process, allocate the 956 contiguous acres to one or more of a variety of resource management options allowed under FLPMA. The Scab Creek MFP Supplement recommends designation of the 956 contiguous acres as an Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The resource management actions for the area proposed for wilderness in this alternative would be the same as those for the proposed action.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative is the proposed action. The rationale supporting the preference is located at the end of Chapter 3 and is supported by a comparative analysis of the environmental effects of the alternatives.



CHAPTER 2

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

This chapter describes the existing environment of the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area, i.e., the present physical, biological, and cultural environmental components of the area. This description provides a base for the analyses in subsequent chapters.

CLIMATE

The general climate of the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area is characteristic of a mountainous region. Temperatures above 90°F rarely occur during the summer, but below 0°F temperatures are frequent during the winter. The average length of the growing season is about 160 days, but below freezing temperatures (<32°F) can occur at any time during the year.

The area receives approximately 12 inches of annual precipitation. Late spring storms, early summer thunderstorms, and winter snowstorms account for most of the annual precipitation. The average annual snowfall in the area is above 100 inches (Scab Creek URA Supplement).

The closest weather station to the area having similar wind conditions is Rock Springs. Based on the Rock Springs data and the topography of the area, the predominate wind directions are from the west, west-southwest, and southwest. The area has a fair number of winds from the northwest also. The average annual wind speed is slightly more than 10 mph, with higher speeds during the winter months than during the summer months.

AIR QUALITY

Based on the total suspended particulate (TSP) measurements from the high-volume sampler located in Boulder (see Figure 1-1), the air quality in the area is very good (1975-1978 average annual geometric mean of 8 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) versus the Wyoming Ambient Air Quality Standard of 60 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$). No measurements of the other criteria pollutants (carbon monoxide (CO),

nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), hydrocarbons (HC), ozone (O_3), and lead (Pb)) have been made near the area, but these are assumed to be very low based on the nature of the existing sources.

Visibility measurements made in Rock Springs indicate a majority of observations (67%) were greater than 40 miles. Based on these data, the visibility in the area is probably very good and would decrease only during periods of fog, high wind, or precipitation.

Based on stability measurements from Rock Springs, there is a 50% occurrence of neutral conditions, a 30% occurrence of stable conditions, and a 20% occurrence of unstable conditions in the area.

The only major pollutant source near the area is the development in the LaBarge Oil and Gas Fields located 35 miles southwest of the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area.

TOPOGRAPHY

The proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area is located in the foothills on the west-facing slope of the Wind River Mountains. The elevation ranges from about 7,400 feet above sea level to approximately 9,600 feet. The Scab Creek area is characterized by rocky, steep, rough terrain. Rock outcrops and large boulders are common to this area. Scab Creek, Silver Creek, and several intermittent streams drain from the Bridger National Forest on the east through the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area to the plains on the west. Numerous small lakes and ponds occur in the small glacial basins. Figures 2-1 through 2-6 depict the general topography of the Scab Creek area.



Figure 2-1
Glacial rock, scattered meadows, and sparse timber.



Figure 2-2
Silver Creek Falls

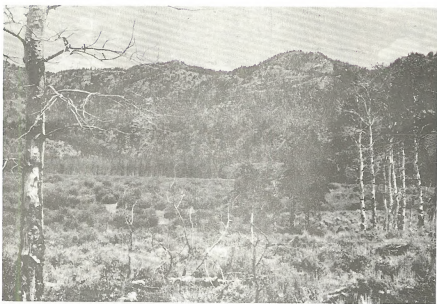


Figure 2-3
Rocky foothills of the Wind River Mountains.



Figure 2-4
Silver Creek



Figure 2-5
Sagebrush foothills



Figure 2-6
Wet meadow in glacial basin.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

GEOLOGY

The area is dominated by the Wind River Uplift, a faulted uplift which created the massive granite peaks of the Wind River Mountains. These mountains were forced up from thousands of feet within the earth an estimated 70 million years ago during the Late Cretaceous period. More recently, glaciers advanced and retreated over the area, giving it its present character. Map 2-1 portrays the surficial geology by landform of the area. The unit glacial scoured uplands (GU) represents the areas of exposed granites. The units low relief moraine lands (EM) and lateral moraine lands (LM) represent areas completely covered by glacial deposits. Unit granite outcrop mountain slope (MS) represents an area of granite once covered by glacial deposits but, due to further erosion, now exhibits much exposed granite bedrock. The areas of unit depositional lands (AM) outside the MS and GU units represent alluvial deposits, both old and recent. The older alluvium originated from the Wind River Uplands prior to glaciation and was derived from granites, sandstones, and shales. The more recent alluvium originated from the nearby glacial deposits, mostly of granitic origin. The areas of unit AM within the MS and GU units are not considered a landform; rather, they represent localized relocation of granitic materials by the actions of water and gravity.

SOILS

Granite is the major parent material and glaciation the major formation process of the present soils. Glaciers have advanced and retreated several times over the area, leaving deposits of varying ages. The proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area has been divided into five areas using landform as an index. The soils within landforms are somewhat homogenous, thus allowing the development of management requirements and recommendations by landform. Each form contains three or more groups of soils in predictable patterns and quantities. Soil classification according to area as well as use limitation is available in the Scab Creek URA Supplement and Appendix 3. The locations of the five different landforms are shown on Map 2-1.

There are currently two man-caused sources of soil erosion in the Scab Creek area. These two sources are the off-road vehicle (ORV) use in the 956 contiguous acres (Map 1-1) and the Scab Creek trail. There is an estimated loss of 14 tons of soil per year from the trail and one ton of soil per year from the ORV use area.

WATER RESOURCES

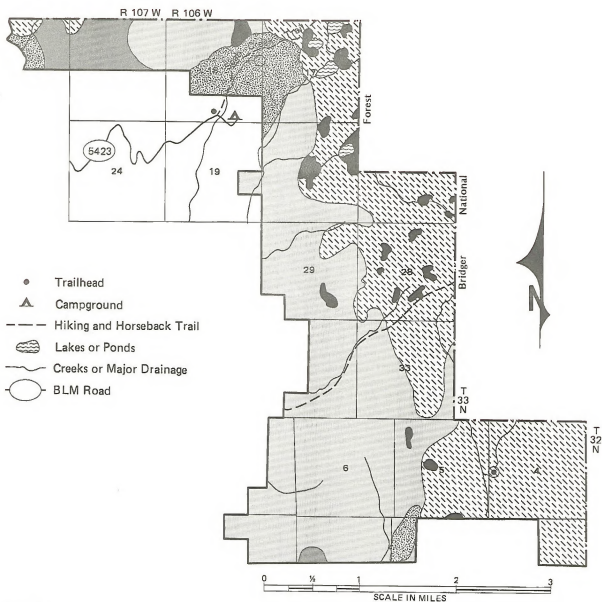
Scab Creek, Silver Creek, several small lakes, and numerous small ponds and intermittent streams comprise the bulk of water-holding and carrying features. There are no man-made water developments in the area. There are no stream gauging stations on the major tributaries that could be used to isolate water yields.

Perennial streams originate in the mountainous areas east of the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area where precipitation is greatest. Streamflow varies from season to season and from year to year. Generally, high runoffs occur in May and June and recede to base flows in late July. The numerous ephemeral streams flow mainly in response to direct runoff from rainfall and snowmelt. The water in the lakes and streams is used for wildlife, livestock, and recreation. These are potential nonpoint sources of limited contamination.

The channel and streambank conditions for the perennial streams are stable due to riparian vegetation densities and rocky stream bottoms.

The quality of surface and groundwater in the area is thought to be generally good, since the headwaters of the perennial streams occur above the area in the Bridger National Forest and have little chance for contamination. A bacterial water quality sample was collected at Struggle-Up Spring located within existing primitive area along the Scab Creek Trail in June of 1977. Results showed a fecal coliform (FC) count of 1/100 ml., and a fecal streptococcus (FS) count of 13/100 ml. The FC/FS ratio of 0.7 indicates pollution derived from livestock or wildlife. The sample gives an indication that the water does not meet recommended limits for drinking water established by the Environmental Protection Agency (National Interim Primary Drinking Water Regulations). A news release by the Wyoming Department of Health and Social Services dated March 9, 1979, further indicates the problem of giardiasis in the Bridger Wilderness. No other data are available on water quality of perennial streams at this time. Water quality data regarding the lakes and ponds in the area are available in the Scab Creek URA Supplement, Wildlife Habitat section.

The perennial streams in the Scab Creek Area have their headwaters in the Bridger Wilderness. Overall, the waters within the Bridger Wilderness are pristine and pure in nature (Bridger Wilderness Lakes Water Quality Study, April 1, 1978, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service). Bacterial



-  Depositional Lands – AM
-  Lateral Moraine Lands – LM
-  Low Relief Moraine Lands – EM
-  Glacial Scoured Uplands – GU
-  Granite Outcrop Mountain Slope – MS

Map 2-1
GEOLOGY BY LAND FORMS
 Proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

counts, according to samples collected at various sites and dates by the Forest Service, showed relatively low bacterial concentrations. In comparing the bacterial samples from Forest Service lands and those on public lands, there is an indication of increased bacterial counts downstream in the Scab Creek area. There remains a risk that these waters are contaminated by *Salmonella*, *Giardia* or other organisms and all water should be purified before drinking.

Of the soil erosion from the trail and ORV-use areas, approximately 10 tons per year from the trail and less than one ton per year from the ORV-use area are estimated to reach the streams as sedimentation.

VEGETATION

The area has basically five major range vegetation types: grassland, wet meadow, sagebrush, broadleaf tree, and conifer (Map 2-2 and Figures 2-1, 2-3, 2-5, and 2-6). Acreage of the vegetation types is shown on Table 2-1. Specific range vegetation types by species and forest inventory data are available at the BLM Pinedale Resource Area Office.

Habitat exists for the proposed threatened or endangered species pussytoes (*Antennaria arcuata*), and Paysons locoweed (*Astragalus paysonii*). A field inventory was conducted in the summer of 1979, and no threatened or endangered plant species have been identified within the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area. The inventory report is in Appendix 4.

WILDLIFE

General Information

The Scab Creek area provides excellent wildlife habitat. A complete list of animals found in the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area is available in the Scab Creek URA Supplement.

Fisheries

Scab Creek, Silver Creek, Cutthroat Lake, and possibly Boundaryline Lake are the only waters with game fish in them. Scab Creek and Cutthroat Lake are inhabited by cutthroat trout (*Salmo clarkii*, Richardson); Boundaryline Lake is reported to have brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*); and Silver Creek is inhabited by rainbow (*Salmo gairdneri*, Richardson), brook, and brown trout (*Salmo trutta*).

Birds

The proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area provides habitat for numerous game and nongame birds. The game birds which inhabit the area are sage grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*), blue grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus*), and ruffed grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*).

Peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) may inhabit the area as migrants in the spring and fall and during the nesting season. Sightings of Northern Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) have been reported in the area, and they may also use the area when migrating from winter and summer ranges. During the summers of 1978 and 1979, a raptor survey was conducted in the Scab Creek area. During this inventory nesting areas for prairie falcons (*Falco mexicanus*) and golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) were located. No peregrine falcon or bald eagle sightings or nest sites were observed. On April 18, 1979, the BLM requested Section 7 Consultation (Interagency Cooperation Regulations (50 CFR, 43 Federal Register 870) and Endangered Species Act Amendments of 1978) from the Fish and Wildlife Service. On July 12, 1979, the BLM Wyoming State Office received the official biological opinion of the Fish and Wildlife Service (Appendix 5). The opinion states that the inclusion of the Scab Creek area into the National Wilderness Preservation System would promote conservation of these species.

Mammals

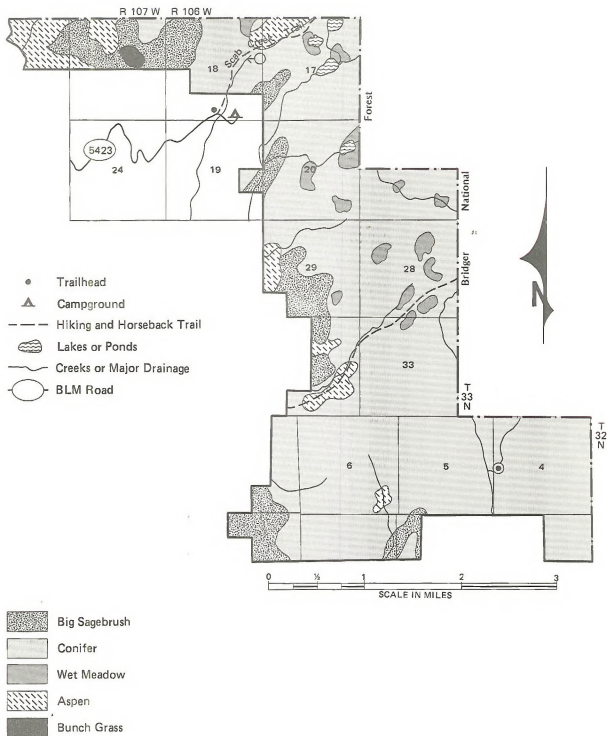
The proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area is used for spring fawning-calving by mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), elk (*Cervus elaphus*), and moose (*Alces alces*). It is not known how many of these big game animals use the area during the summer and fall. The Scab Creek elk feedground managed by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department is located on public lands adjacent to the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area. An average of 300 elk use the feedground during the winter. All of these elk pass through Scab Creek on their way to and from the feedground. Some of the other major animals in the area are black bear (*Ursus americanus*), bobcat (*Felis rufus*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), mountain lion (*Felis concolor*), snowshoe rabbit (*Lepus americanus*), badger (*Taxidea taxus*), and possibly wolverine (*Gulo gulo*) and Canada lynx (*Felis lynx*).

Table 2-1

VEGETATION TYPES BY ACREAGE IN THE PROPOSED SCAB CREEK WILDERNESS AREA

Types	Acreages
Conifer	3,644
Sagebrush	2,503
Broadleaf Tree	1,175
Grassland	169
Wet Meadow	145
Total	7,636

Source: 1978 BLM forest inventory.



Map 2-2
VEGETATION
Proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area

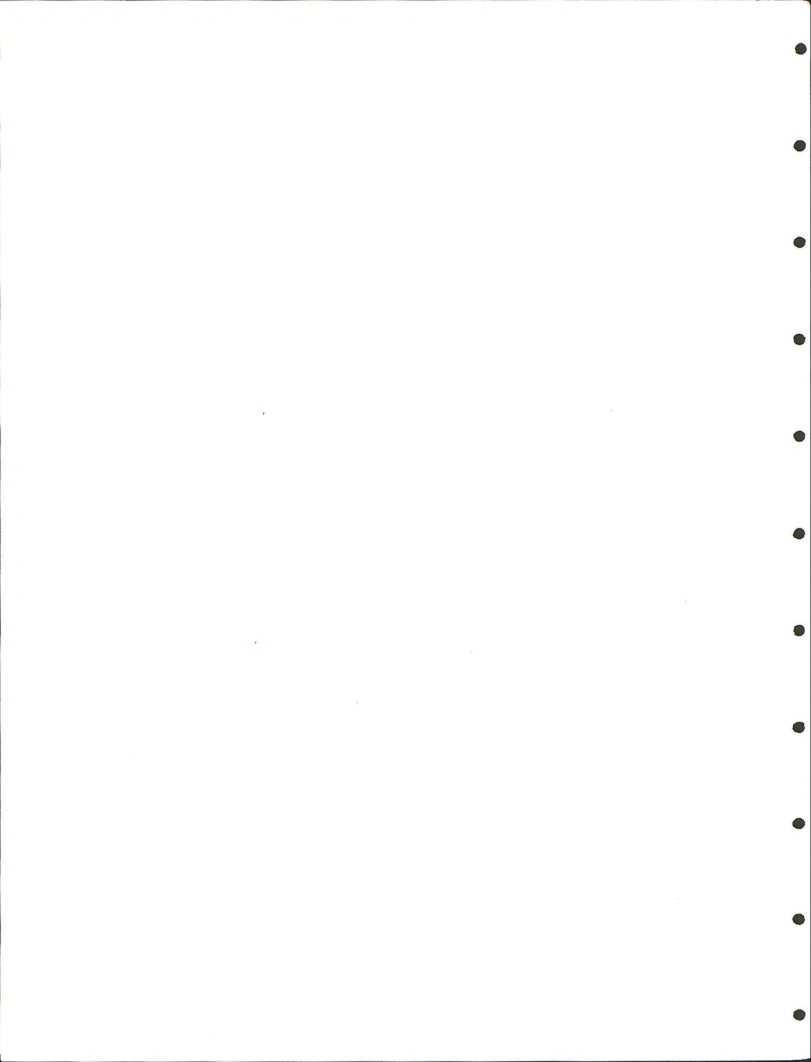




Figure 2-7
Sagebrush Basin Cabin in the Scab Creek Area.

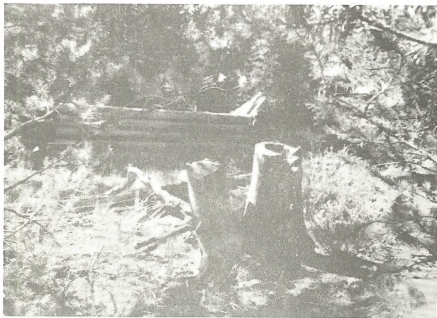
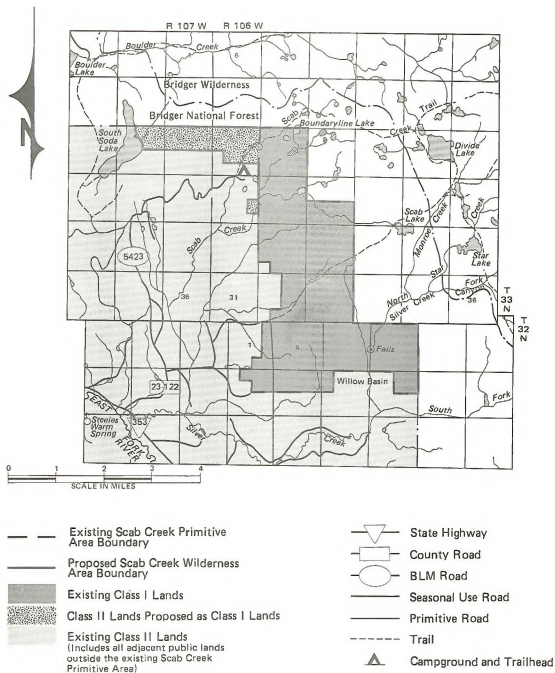


Figure 2-8
Struggle-Up Spring cabin.



Map 2-3
VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
Proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

RECREATION RESOURCES

General

The Scab Creek trailhead and campground are located just west of the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area (see Map 1-1). The 1978 estimated use in the area was 10,000 visitor days. This was a 16% increase in use from 1977. The use in the area is projected to increase by 31% to 13,100 visitor days over 5 years (Scab Creek URA Supplement). The area provides for the recreation opportunities of hunting, hiking, horseback riding, fishing, camping, sightseeing, rock climbing, and environmental education. The Scab Creek Primitive Area has been closed to ORV use since 1975. The 956 contiguous acres are presently still open for ORV use. This ORV use is less than 1% (50 visitor days) of the total recreation use; however, the tracks left by this use are quite evident. This ORV use is mainly by hunters; people do not come to this area just to use their ORVs.

Hunting

The area provides excellent opportunities for hunting of mule deer, elk, moose, blue grouse, and ruffed grouse (Figure 2-9). Black bear and coyote are hunted on an incidental basis. Approximately 37% (3,700 visitor days) of the visitor use is hunting. Most of this use is in the latter part of elk season when deep snows push the elk out of their mountain summer range into the foothills around the Scab Creek elk feedground. The steep rocky terrain makes this area a challenge even for hunters in excellent physical condition.

Hiking-Horseback Riding

The Scab Creek trailhead (Figure 2-10) is a major access to the Bridger Wilderness. Most of the people who hike or horseback ride the trail are passing through the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area to the Bridger Wilderness (Figure 2-11). Approximately 40% (4,000 visitor days) of the visitor use is from people hiking or horseback riding.

Fishing

There is good to excellent fishing in the streams and lakes (Figure 2-12) that contain populations of trout in the Scab Creek area (see Wildlife, Fisheries). However, these streams and lakes are very difficult to get to, and most people pass up the Scab Creek area to get to the excellent fishing in the Bridger Wilderness. Approximately 10% (1,000 visitor days) of the total visitor use is by fishermen.

Camping

Most of the camping within the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area is in isolated campsites (Figures 2-13, 2-14, and 2-15). This use is by hunters, hikers, fishermen, and the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS). There are no developed or major campsites in the area; however, there were approximately 950 visitor days of camping use (10% of the total use) in 1978 at the Scab Creek campground (Figures 2-16 and 2-17) just outside the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area. Most of this use was by visitors who were either getting ready to pack into the Bridger Wilderness or were just getting back and by hunters utilizing the Scab Creek Area.

Sightseeing

Sightseeing in the Scab Creek area is associated with the other recreational activities. Throughout the area people view the varying and scenic landscape with its different types of vegetation and associated wildlife.

Rock Climbing, Cross-Country Skiing, and Environmental Education

The NOLS uses the Scab Creek Area to teach rock climbing and cross-country skiing (Figure 2-18). The vertical granite rocks offer excellent material for rock climbing.

Numerous persons cross-country ski through the area during the winter.



Figure 2-9
Successful hunter displays elk rack.

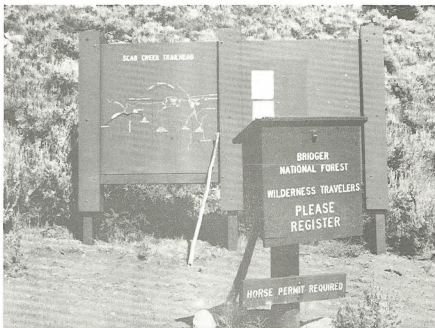


Figure 2-10
Bulletin board and register box at the Scab Creek trailhead.



Figure 2-11
Access by horseback at Cutthroat Lake.

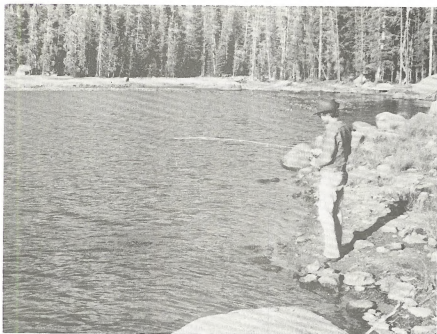


Figure 2-12
Fishing at Cutthroat Lake.



Figure 2-13
Isolated camp in the Scab Creek area.



Figure 2-14
Backpacking and camping in the Scab Creek Area.

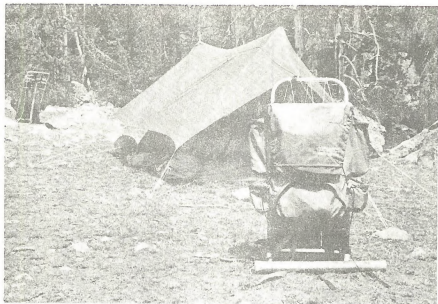


Figure 2-15
Backpacker's camp in the Scab Creek area.



Figure 2-16
Recreationists at the Scab Creek campground.



Figure 2-17
Vehicles parked at the Scab Creek campground.



Figure 2-18
Rock climbing in the Scab Creek area.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The varying ecological types located throughout the Scab Creek area are excellent for teaching environmental education. Students from the NOLS are brought to the area to learn how to survive and appreciate the wilderness environment.

Rock climbing, cross-country skiing, and environmental education account for approximately 3% (300 visitor days) of the total visitor use.

Visitor Facilities

The only visitor facility located within the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area is the Scab Creek trail (Figure 2-19). There are approximately 2 1/2 miles of hiking-horseback riding trail located in the area. The trail provides access to the Bridger National Forest and the Bridger Wilderness. This trail was constructed to standards less than those set forth by the Forest Service Handbook FSH 7719.2, which results in soil erosion, sedimentation, and safety hazards (loose boulders and steep slopes). There is another trail located through the center of Scab Creek. This trail was built by the local ranchers, for livestock access, approximately 30 years ago (1940s). It is not now used and there is no public access. The trailhead facilities and campground are located just outside the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area. The annual capacity of the campground is estimated to be 2,250 visitor days per year.

AGRICULTURE

Livestock Grazing

The proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area contains portions of the Scab Creek and the Sagebrush Basin Grazing Allotments. All licensed use is by cattle (Figures 2-20), except for ten head of horses in the Scab Creek Grazing Allotment. Of the 1,537 animal unit months (AUMs) in the two allotments, approximately 761 AUMs are located in the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area. According to the Scab Creek URA Supplement 1,244 acres are in good condition, 796 acres are in fair condition, and 5,596 acres are unsuitable for livestock grazing. All of the area is in a static trend of range condition.

All livestock use occurs between May 1 and October 31. Early use is primarily in the lower pastures and as the grazing season progresses, the cattle are moved to higher elevations and then back down in the fall. Generally, the cattle move

upslope to the Bridger National Forest during the summer months. Use on public lands is generally confined to spring and fall months. The operators in both allotments have Bridger-Teton National Forest permits. No range improvements are located or planned within the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area.

MINERAL RESOURCES

The Bureau of Mines and the Geological Survey (GS) are developing a joint study and report concerning locatable minerals and the oil and gas potential of the Scab Creek area. The results of this report should be available during the spring of 1980.

Locatable Minerals

There are no identified economic reserves of locatable minerals in the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area. A search of the Sublette County Courthouse records was conducted on January 24, 1979, and no recordation of any mining claims was found in the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area. All of the area except the NE1/4NW1/4, Section 12, T. 32 N., R. 107 W., 6th P.M., was withdrawn from mineral location in 1970.

Leaseable Minerals

As stated in the Geology section of this chapter, the Scab Creek area is dominated by the Wind River Uplift. Within this uplift, there may be trapped pockets of oil and (or) gas. Based on the information available to date, it is assumed that there is less than a 10% probability that oil and (or) gas is under the area. Until the Bureau of Mines and the GS report is received, there is no way to know for sure whether oil and gas does or does not occur under the area.

The only leaseable mineral for which leases have been issued in the Sublette Planning Unit is oil and gas. There are no oil and gas leases issued in the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area. There have been five requests to lease this area; however, these leases are being held pending wilderness designation or nondesignation.



Figure 2-19
Outfitter with pack train on the Scab Creek Trail.



Figure 2-20
Cattle grazing in the Scab Creek area.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

FOREST RESOURCES

Logging in the Scab Creek area was done with horses during the early 1900s. The areas in which logging occurred are shown on Map 2-4. The timber which was harvested was used for house logs when the towns of Boulder, New Fork, and Pinedale were established. There have been no logging activities in the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area for the last 50 years.

The 6,680-acre Scab Creek Primitive Area was removed from timber production at the time of primitive area designation in 1975. This included 3,644 acres of conifer and 1,175 acres of aspen. Of this 4,819 acres of conifer and aspen, an intensive forest inventory conducted in 1978 stated that 2,253 acres are suited to some degree of intensive timber management. Of this 2,253 acres, 1,379 acres are capable of being logged by conventional means and 874 acres are on fragile soils and steep slopes which would necessitate having special environmental constraints. The Scab Creek MFP Supplement of the Sublette planning documents recommends that no forest product removal be allowed in the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area. BLM foresters and local loggers agree that the rugged terrain in the area makes the harvesting of timber from this area uneconomical at this time (Scab Creek URA Supplement), and it is unlikely that this area would become economical to log in the next 30 years. The harvestable timber volume in the area could support an annual allowable cut of 204 thousand board feet (MBF) if the economics of road construction, logging, and other resource requirements are allowed. This would amount to approximately a one million board foot sale every 5 years. The Pinedale Resource Area average annual allowable cut is estimated to be approximately one million board feet.

LAND USE PLANS, CONTROLS, CONSTRAINTS

Within 2 miles of the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area, there is one subdivision where 160 acres of private lands are zoned rural residence (R-R). The Scab Creek area and all public and private lands except those administered by the Forest Service are zoned for general agriculture (A-1). The Forest Service lands have been zoned resource conservation (R-C).

The communities in general proximity to the Scab Creek area are Boulder and Pinedale. It appears that the undeveloped lands within the towns can accommodate any expected growth.

The Forest Service lands adjacent to the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area have been recommended by the President to Congress to be wilderness and included as part of the Bridger Wilderness.

The Air Force has seismograph monitoring stations adjacent to the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area, and according to the Air Force any activities which occur in the area affect data gathered from these seismograph stations.

The Air Force has expressed at public meetings and in a letter (available at the Pinedale Resource Area Office) a desire that no increased activities (heavy vehicular traffic or development) should be permitted that would degrade the seismic monitoring capability of their equipment.

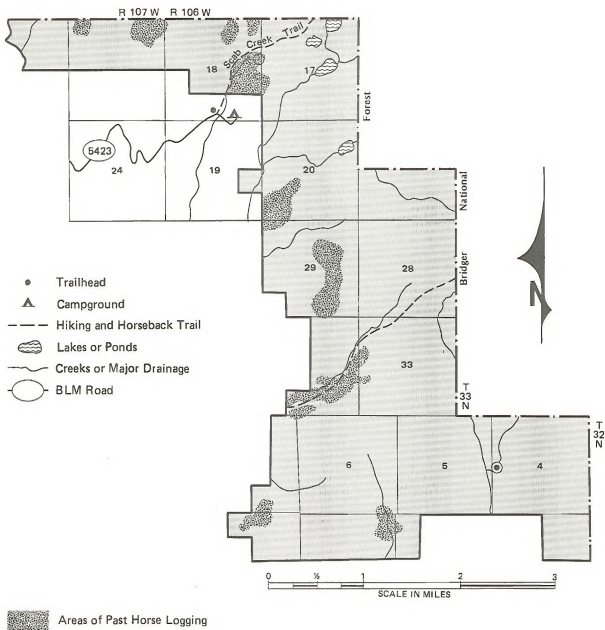
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Population

The population of Sublette County in 1970 was 3,755. By 1975, the population had increased to 4,113, a 9% increase in 5 years. By contrast in the same period, the adjacent counties' populations increased by a much larger percentage--Teton County 33%, Lincoln County 15%, and Sweetwater County 64%. This larger increase in growth was related to oil and gas, iron, and coal-related and dependent industries.

Sociocultural

Generally, the people of Sublette County pride themselves on their western way of life, which includes among its several elements small town living with its customs of friendliness, love of the outdoors, and adherence to traditional conservative values.



Map 2-4
FORESTRY
Proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area

CHAPTER 3

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Assumptions

The following assumptions were used for impact analysis:

1. Regardless of whether the Scab Creek area is designated wilderness or not the visitor use will increase by 31% to 13,100 visitor-days by 1984 (Scab Creek URA Supplement). The use would be at the trailhead and campground and along the trail by people traveling to the Bridger Wilderness.
2. Due to the low probability (less than 10%) of oil and (or) gas in the area, the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area would not be developed for oil and gas if it is not designated wilderness.
3. Due to the timber resources being uneconomical to log using current management practices (Scab Creek MFP Supplement), it is assumed that there would be no future demand for product sales.
4. There are no livestock developments presently planned in the Scab Creek area, and it is assumed that none would be required in the future.

Impacts of the Proposed Action

Interdisciplinary team analysis has shown that the following resources or resource values would be affected by the proposed action and alternatives: Soils; Water Resources; Vegetation; Wildlife; Cultural Resources; Visual Resources; Wilderness Values; Recreation Resources; Land Use Plans, Controls, Constraints; and Economic and Social Conditions.

Soils

Visitor use to the Scab Creek area is resulting in increased use on the existing trail. Increased trail use is resulting in localized surface soil disturbance which results in 14 tons of soil erosion per year along the trail. The soils in the remainder of the area would be less apt to be disturbed by increased activities. The restriction of ORVs from the 956 contiguous acres would allow the two-track trails through the area to revegetate and thus reduce soil erosion to 0.6 tons per year in 4 years and would eventually be eliminated altogether.

Water Resources

According to the State of Wyoming, *Water Quality Rules and Regulations*, Chapter 1, Quality Standards for Wyoming Surface Waters, Section 8, a(1), all surface waters located within the boundaries of Congressionally designated wilderness areas will be Class I waters. This designation would require maintaining high water quality standards for all waters in the area.

The sedimentation as a result of increased use on the hiking trail would continue at the present rate of 10 tons per year. However, sedimentation as a result of ORV usage would be reduced to 0.37 tons per year in 4 years and would eventually be eliminated altogether. With less sedimentation, water quality would improve.

Vegetation

Wilderness designation of the area would allow the vegetation to continue to follow natural succession. The one acre disturbed by ORVs would become revegetated.

Wildlife

The wildlife species that use the 956 contiguous acres of the Scab Creek area for critical periods of their life cycles would be enhanced (i.e., elk and moose calving, deer fawning, and raptor nesting) because of the ORV restriction on that area.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Cultural Resources

The Wyoming SHPO has "concurred" that wilderness designation would act to preserve cultural resource better than adversely impact them and that, in view of the preserving nature of a wilderness designation, a 20%-25% stratified sample of the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area was an adequate inventory for the proposed action (Appendix 6).

Visual Resources

If the proposed action is implemented, the existing primitive area would remain as VRM Class I and the 956 contiguous acres would be reclassified from VRM Class II to a Class I. This would protect the high scenic quality and natural character of the area by allowing only natural changes to occur.

Wilderness Resources

Implementation of the proposed action would protect by Congressional designation the 7,636 acres identified as having wilderness character from degradation.

Recreation Resources

Regardless of whether the Scab Creek area is designated wilderness or not, total visitor use is expected to increase by 31% to 13,100 visitor days per year by 1984. The action of designating Scab Creek would have no significant impact on the quality or opportunity for recreation resources that now exist. National recognition of the Scab Creek area as wilderness would not create any significant change in visitor use to the area. Most people would still travel through the area to the Bridger Wilderness.

The proposed action would eliminate the ORV use on the 956 contiguous acres. The elimination of the estimated 50 visitor days use by people using ORVs on the contiguous lands for hunting is not anticipated to place any added demand on adjacent lands.

Mineral Resources

Due to the low probability (less than 10%) of oil or gas under the area, it is not anticipated that oil and gas would be developed. Therefore, designation would not create an impact to mineral development.

The withdrawal of the remaining 40 acres from mineral location would eliminate any prospecting or development of locatable minerals that may be present within this tract.

Land Use Plans, Controls Constraints

The lands would most likely be zoned resource conservation (R-C) by the county if the area is designated wilderness. This change in zoning would not affect anything which is planned by the BLM or Sublette County. Wilderness designation would complement the management of the adjoining Forest Service lands which have been recommended by the President for wilderness designation through the RARE II process. The proposed action would also complement the Air Force's desire to prevent disturbance to their seismograph stations by not allowing surface disturbing activities in the proposed wilderness area.

Economic and Social Conditions

The designation of the Scab Creek area as wilderness would not affect the small town living and western way of life which now exists in Sublette County.

Impacts of the No-Action Alternative

The anticipated impacts of the no-action alternative, which is to designate the area as an Outstanding Natural Area, would be the same as those identified for the proposed action except for the following:

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Water Resources

The streams would not likely be designated by the State of Wyoming as Class I waters. Wilderness Values

Designation as an Outstanding Natural Area would not give the Congressional protection to the wilderness values that a wilderness designation would. The Outstanding Natural Area designation would be made by the BLM Wyoming State Director.

Land Use Plans, Controls Constraints

The county would likely retain the general agriculture (A-1) zoning instead of changing the zoning to resource conservation (R-C).

Designation as an Outstanding Natural Area would be complimentary to the management of the proposed wilderness area of the Bridger National Forest recommended by the President as wilderness through RARE II and to the management of the Air Force seismograph stations. However, the designation as an Outstanding Natural Area would not give the Congressional protection that wilderness would.

Impacts of the Alternative for Designation of the Existing Primitive Area as Wilderness

The anticipated impacts of this alternative of designating the existing 6,680-acre Scab Creek Primitive Area as wilderness and managing the 956 contiguous acres as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) would be the same as the proposed action except for the following:

Water Resources

The streams in the existing 6,680-acre Scab Creek Primitive Area would likely be designated by the State of Wyoming as Class I waters and the streams in the remaining 956 acres would not be reclassified.

Wilderness Values

The wilderness values on the existing 6,680-acre primitive area would be protected with the Congressional designation. The wilderness values on the remaining 956 acres would not have Congressional protection; however, they would receive some protection as an ACEC. This ACEC designation could be changed by the BLM Wyoming State Director through the land use planning process if a higher and better use could be made of the 956 contiguous acres.

Land Use Plans, Controls Constraints

The 6,680-acre primitive area would likely be rezoned by the county as resource conservation (R-C), while the 956 contiguous acres would likely remain zoned general agriculture (A-1).

The wilderness designation on the 6,680 acres would greatly compliment the proposed Bridger National Forest area recommended by the President for wilderness through the RARE II process and the Air Force seismograph stations. The ACEC designation on the 956 contiguous acres would also compliment the proposed Forest Service wilderness area and the seismograph stations but would not give the Congressional protection that wilderness designation would.

MITIGATING MEASURES NOT INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED ACTION OR ALTERNATIVES

The following mitigating measures to which the BLM would be committed to would reduce the impacts that would be caused by implementation of the proposed action or either of the alternatives. These measures are designed to eliminate or reduce the adverse impacts previously identified in this chapter.

1. Trails would be stabilized and upgraded to standards set forth in Forest Service Handbook FSH 7719.2. These standards would minimize soil erosion, sedimentation, and reduce safety hazards for those visitors walking and horseback riding through the area. This would result in soil erosion being reduced to 4 tons lost in the first year and 1 ton per year thereafter. Sedimentation in the waters

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

of the area would be reduced to 2.9 tons the first year and approximately 0.7 tons per year thereafter.

2. Facility and trail development at the Scab Creek campground and trailhead would be closely coordinated with the Forest Service to regulate the number of persons entering the Bridger Wilderness and the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness through the Scab Creek Trailhead. This would ensure continued protection of wilderness values and the quality of the wilderness experience.

UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS

Proposed Action

The following are unavoidable adverse impacts which would occur if the Scab Creek area is designated as wilderness.

1. There would be an ORV closure on the 956 contiguous acres.
2. There would be a withdrawal from mineral location of 40 acres that have not already been withdrawn.

No-Action Alternative

Implementation of the no-action alternative would cause the same unavoidable adverse impacts as those that would be caused by implementation of the proposed action, since the management of the area would be much the same as a wilderness area, with the following addition:

1. The 7,636-acre proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area would not receive the Congressional protection of the wilderness designation. The Outstanding Natural Area designation could be changed by the BLM Wyoming State Director and, therefore, is not the permanent type of designation that wilderness is.

Designation of Existing Primitive Area Only as Wilderness

The unavoidable adverse impacts to the existing 6,680-acre Scab Creek Primitive Area would be the same as those that would occur if the proposed action is implemented. The unavoidable adverse impacts to the 956 contiguous acres would be the same as those that would occur if the no-action alternative is implemented.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LOCAL SHORT- TERM USE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

Implementation of the proposed action or either of the alternatives would not involve losses to the long-term productivity of the environment.

IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

Implementation of the proposed action or either of the alternatives would constitute a long-term commitment of resources because of a commitment to a management system. However, designation as wilderness, as an Outstanding Natural Area, or as an ACEC can be rescinded so that none can be considered an irreversible or an ir retrievable commitment of the resources. Congress has the power to rescind wilderness designation, and the BLM has the power to rescind Outstanding Natural Area and ACEC designations.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

SUMMARY IMPACT MATRIX OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

The following matrix, Table 3-1, summarizes the existing situation and the impacts for the proposed action and alternatives.

Analysis

Existing Situation

The existing primitive area designation will be rescinded when Congress makes a decision to designate or not designate the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area as wilderness. There is a hiking-horseback riding trail in the area which does not meet established Forest Service standards and is causing soil erosion (14 tons per year), sedimentation (10 tons per year), and presents a potential safety hazard. There is ORV use in relation to hunting on the 956 contiguous acres which is resulting in soil erosion (1.3 tons per year), sedimentation (0.8 tons per year), and disturbance to approximately one acre of vegetation.

The trail, trailhead, and campground are used as access to the Bridger Wilderness. It is anticipated that visitor use will increase by 31% to 13,100 visitor days by 1984 whether or not the Scab Creek Area is designated wilderness.

Proposed Action

Implementation of the mitigating measures would upgrade the trail to the standards outlined in the Forest Service Handbook FSH 7719.2. These standards would require safety hazard removal, widening the trail, and leveling out steep grades. In turn this would reduce soil erosion to approximately 1 ton per year and sedimentation to about 0.7 tons per year. Designation of the area as wilderness would eliminate impacts from ORV use, which in turn would eliminate soil erosion, sedimentation, and vegetation impacts in that area. Other beneficial impacts of designating the area wilderness would be: (1) added protection of cultural, wilderness, and visual values; (2) Congressional complementary protection of the Forest Service RARE II area recommended by the President as wilderness; (3) reduce potential disturbance to the sensitive Air Force seismograph stations; (4) designation by the State of Wyoming of all streams in the area as

Class I waters; and (5) protection of 7,636 acres of wildlife habitat.

The 40 acres in NE1/4NW1/4, Sec. 12, T. 32 N., R. 107 W., that have not already been withdrawn would be withdrawn from mineral location. It is also assumed that, if the area were designated as wilderness, Sublette County would rezone it as resource conservation (R-C).

No-Action Alternative—Natural Area

The impacts of the no-action alternative would be the same as the proposed action except for the following:

1. There would be no Congressional protection of the identified wilderness values.
2. The lack of Congressional protection would not be complimentary to the designation of adjacent Rare II areas as wilderness.
3. The opportunity for reducing potential disturbance to the Air Force seismograph stations would be eliminated.
4. The streams would not likely be classified by the State as Class I waters.
5. The county zoning would remain general agriculture (A-1).

Primitive Area Only Wilderness

The impacts to the 6,680-acre existing Scab Creek Primitive Area would be the same as those described in the analysis of the proposed action. The impacts to the 956 contiguous acres would be the same as those in the analysis of the no-action alternative.

Preferred Alternative

The preferred alternative for the 7,636 acres in the Scab Creek area is the proposed action, which is to designate and manage the Scab Creek Primitive Area and 956 contiguous acres as the Scab Creek Wilderness Area within the National Wilderness Preservation System. The area would be managed pursuant to the mandate and guidelines of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Table 3-1
IMPACT MATRIX OF THE EXISTING SITUATIONS, PROPOSED ACTION, AND ALTERNATIVES

Impact to Environment	Existing Situation	Proposed Action	No-Action Natural Area Alternative	Existing Primitive Area	Primitive Area Only-Wilderness Alternative	Contiguous Lands
Soil Erosion from Trail	14 tons/year	1 ton/year	1 ton/year	0.5 ton/year*	0.5 ton/year*	0
Soil Erosion ORV Trails	1 ton/year	0	0	0	0	0
State Designation of all Streams as Class I Waters	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Sedimentation from Trail	10 tons/year	0.7 ton/year	0.7 ton/year	0.35 ton/year	0.35 ton/year	0
Sedimentation ORV Trails	less than 1 ton/year	0	0	0	0	0
Vegetation Disturbed ORV	1 acre	0	0	0	0	0
Acres Wildlife Habitat Protected	6,680 acres	7,636 acres	7,636 acres	6,680 acres	956 acres	956 acres
Cultural Resource Protection	6,680 acres	7,636 acres	7,636 acres	6,680 acres	956 acres	956 acres
Visual Class I	6,680 acres	7,636 acres	7,636 acres	6,680 acres	956 acres	956 acres
Congressional Protection of Wilderness	0	7,636 acres	0	6,680 acres	0	0
Visitor Use	13,100 visitor days	13,100 visitor days	13,100 visitor days	13,100 visitor days	13,100 visitor days	0
Acres of ORV Use	956 acres	0	0	0	0	0
Acres Withdrawn Mineral Location	7,596 acres	7,636 acres	7,636 acres	6,680 acres	956 acres	956 acres
Zoning	A-1	R-C	A-1	R-C	A-1	A-1
Congressional Compliment to Adjacent Lands	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Environmental Education	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

*One-half of the length of the trail is within the existing primitive area and one-half is within the 956 contiguous acres. The 1 ton/year is total erosion for the entire trail length.

CHAPTER 4

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

TEAM ORGANIZATION

This EIS was written by a four-person core team and writer/editor with assistance from an interdisciplinary team. The core team was primarily responsible for preparing this document with technical guidance and interdisciplinary input from the special assistance team. Table 4-1 lists the preparers of this EIS.

COORDINATION IN THE REVIEW OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Comments on the draft EIS are requested from the following agencies, interest groups, and persons.

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Mr. Sam Warren, District Ranger Bridger-Teton National Forest, P.O. Box 220, Pinedale, WY 82941

Mr. Roger Barker, Chevron Oil Company, P.O. Box 599, Denver, CO 80201

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Mr. Howie Wolke, Friends of the Earth, Box 2671, Jackson, WY 83001

Green River Valley Cattleman's Assn. c/o Mr. Ken Shriver, Big Piney, WY 83113

Mr. Burton Marston, Secretary, Izaak Walton League, 370 N. 9th Street, Laramie, WY 82070

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Mrs. Alice Harrower, President Sublette County Historical Society, Pinedale, WY 82941

Mr. Hank Snow, Sublette County Outfitters Assn. P.O. Box 181, Pinedale, WY 82941

Mrs. Doris Burzlander, Mayor, Town of Pinedale, Pinedale, WY 82941

U.S. Senator Malcolm Wallop, Rosie Guest, Office Director, P.O. Box 1014 Lander, WY 82520

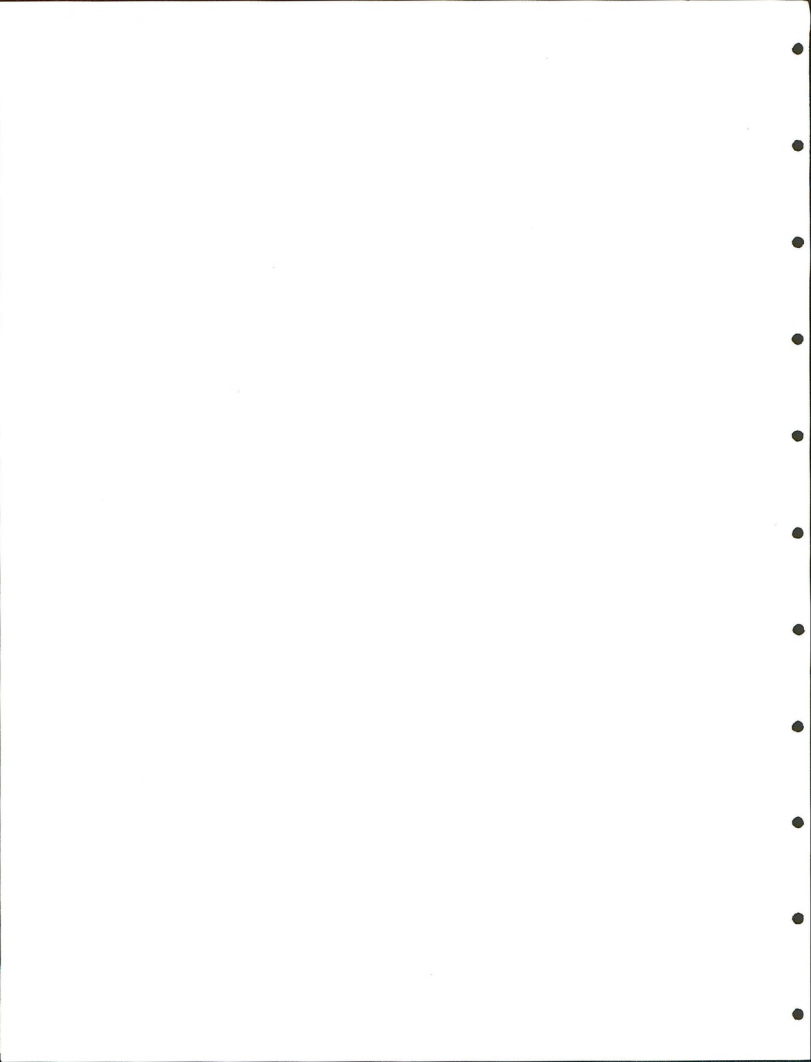
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CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

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- Mr. Jim Metziner, 332 Sunset Drive, Green River, WY 82935
- Mr. Finis Mitchell, 422 M Street, Rock Springs, WY 82901
- Mr. Vernon Mrak, Boulder, WY 82923
- Mr. Rob Post, Boulder, WY 82923
- Ms. Dixie Sanders, Box 333, Jackson, WY 83001
- Mr. Floyd Schnieder, P.O. Box 337, Pinedale, WY 82941
- Mr. Ron Smith, 311 W. Flaming Gorge, Green River, WY 82935
- Mr. Jim Tibbals, Boulder, WY 82923
- Mr. and Mrs. William J. Thompson, 1002 1/2 W. Cedar St., Rawlins, WY 82301
- Big Piney Conservation District, Big Piney, WY 83113

TABLE 4-1
LIST OF PREPARERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>EIS Assignment</u>	<u>Position/Expertise</u>	<u>Education</u>	<u>Experience</u>
Jerry A. Wilfong	Team Leader	District Outdoor Recreation Planner	B.S. Forestry, University of Idaho	8 years - BLM
John H. (Jack) Hogle	Core Team	Pinedale R.A. Outdoor Recreation Planner	B.S. Natural Resource Management, Humboldt State University	5 years - BLM
John C. Lytle	Core Team	District Archeologist	B.A. Anthropology, University of Wyoming and M.A. Anthropology, University of Kansas	3 years - BLM
Matthew R. Brennan	Core Team	District Environmental Coordinator	B.S. Forest Recreation Management, Utah State University	4 years - BLM 2 years - BIA
Patricia A. Greno	Core Team	District Writer/Editor	B.A. English, University of Colorado	5 years - BLM
Wayne B. Erickson	Wyoming State Office Wilderness Coordinator	Outdoor Recreation Planner	B.S. Forest Recreation Management, Utah State University	14 years - BLM
Vernon C. Hoffman	Wyoming State Office EIS Coordinator	Environmental Coordinator	B.S. Agriculture, Kansas State University B.S. Forest Management, Colorado State University	3 years - BLM 16 years - FS 6 years - other federal service
Colin W. Voigt	Special Assistance Team	District Soil Scientist	B.S. Agronomy, University of Kentucky	1 year - BLM
Steven C. Hamp	Special Assistance Team	District Hydrologist	B.S. Sociology and Geology, Illinois State University and M.S. Watershed, University of Arizona	1 year - BLM
Larry A. Doughty	Special Assistance Team	Pinedale R.A. Wildlife Biologist	B.S. Range Management and M.S. Wildlife Management, University of Nevada-Reno	13 years - BLM
Charles R. (Bob) Crockett	Special Assistance Team	District Range Specialist	B.S. Agriculture, University of Arizona	11 years - BLM
Stephen P. Ellis	Special Assistance Team	District Mineral Specialist	B.S. Geology, Weber State College	4 years - BLM
Mitchell T. Baer	Special Assistance Team	State Office Air Quality Specialist	M.S. Atmospheric Science, Colorado State University	1 year - BLM



OTHER

APPENDED

MATERIAL



GLOSSARY

AIR QUALITY CLASSES. Classes established by the Environmental Protection Agency that define the amount of pollution considered significant within an area. Class I applies to areas where almost any change in air quality would be considered significant; Class II applies to areas where the deterioration normally accompanying moderate well-controlled growth would be considered insignificant; and Class III applies to areas where deterioration up to the national standards would be considered insignificant.

ANIMAL UNIT. Considered to be one mature cow with calf or their equivalent based upon an average daily forage consumption of 26 pounds of dry matter per day.

ANIMAL UNIT MONTH (AUM). The amount of feed or forage required by an animal unit for one month.

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACEC). Areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

CULTURAL RESOURCES. Those fragile and nonrenewable remains of human activities, occupations, and endeavors as reflected in sites, buildings, structures, or objects, including works of art, architecture, and engineering. Cultural resources are commonly discussed as prehistoric and historic values, but each period represents a part of the full continuum of cultural values from the earliest to the most recent.

EPHEMERAL STREAM. A stream or reach of stream that flows only in direct response to precipitation in the immediate locality and whose channel is at all times above the water table.

GROWING SEASON. The period when mean daily temperatures are above 40°F.

HABITAT. The natural abode of a plant or animal, including all biotic, climatic, and soil conditions, or other environmental influences affecting life.

INTERMITTENT STREAM. A stream or portion of a stream that flows only in direct response to precipitation. It receives little or no water from springs and is dry for a large part of the year.

LOCATABLE MINERALS. Those minerals or mineral ores subject to location of a mining claim under the General Mining Law of 1872.

MULTIPLE USE. The management of the public lands and their various resource values so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people; making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions; a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources.

OFF-ROAD VEHICLE (ORV). Any motorized vehicle designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, sand, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other natural terrain, excluding (a) any registered motorboat, (b) any fire, military, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle when used for emergencies and any combat support vehicle when used for national defense, and (c) any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the respective agency head under a permit, lease, license, or contract.

OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA. An area of unusual natural characteristics where management of recreation activities is necessary to preserve those characteristics.

PERENNIAL STREAM. A stream or reach of a stream that flows continuously throughout the year and whose upper surface generally stands lower than the water table in the region adjoining the stream. Syn: permanent stream; live stream.

PRECIPITATION. Any of all of the forms of water particles, whether liquid or solid, that fall from the atmosphere and reach the ground. It is a major class of hydrometeor, but is distinguished from cloud, fog, dew, rime, front, etc., in that it must "fall"; and is distinguished from cloud and virga in that it must reach the ground. Precipitation includes drizzle, rain, snow, snow pellets, snow grains, ice crystals, ice pellets, and hail.

PROPOSE WILDERNESS DESIGNATION. Through this EIS the BLM is proposing wilderness designation of an area.

PRIMITIVE AREA. A natural, wild, and undeveloped area, essentially removed from the effects of civilization.

PUBLIC LANDS. Any land and interest in land owned by the United States within the several states and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management, without regard to how the United States acquired ownership, except (1) lands located on the Outer Continental Shelf and (2) lands held for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos.

RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS DESIGNATION. A formal recommendation for designation of an area to be wilderness by the BLM through a Management Framework Plan (MFP) or by the Secretary of the Interior to the President.

REVEGETATION. The reestablishment or improvement of vegetation through either natural or mechanical means, i.e., natural revegetation or artificial revegetation.

RIPARIAN. Situated on or pertaining to the bank of a river, stream, or other body of water. Normally used to refer to plants of all types that grow along streams or around springs.

STREAM. Any body of running water, great or small, moving under gravity flow to progressively lower levels in a relatively narrow but clearly defined channel on the surface of the ground.

TOTAL SUSPENDED PARTICULATES (TSP). The total predicted pollutant concentrations, except water, in uncombined form that are airborne and exist as a liquid or solid at standard conditions.

VEGETATION. Plants in general, or the sum total of the plant life above and below ground in an area. Cf: vegetative.

VEGETATION TYPE. A plant community with distinguishable characteristics. Syn: type; Cf: range site.

VEGETATIVE. Relating to nutritive and growth functions of plant life in contrast to sexual reproductive functions. Should not be confused with vegetation.

VISITOR DAY. A day in which the visitor hours contained therein have been spent by persons in any activities except those which are a part of or incidental to the pursuit of a gainful occupation. Twelve visitor hours which are aggregated by one or more persons.

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CLASSES. The degree of alteration that is acceptable within the characteristic landscape. It is based upon the physical and sociological characteristics of any given homogenous area.

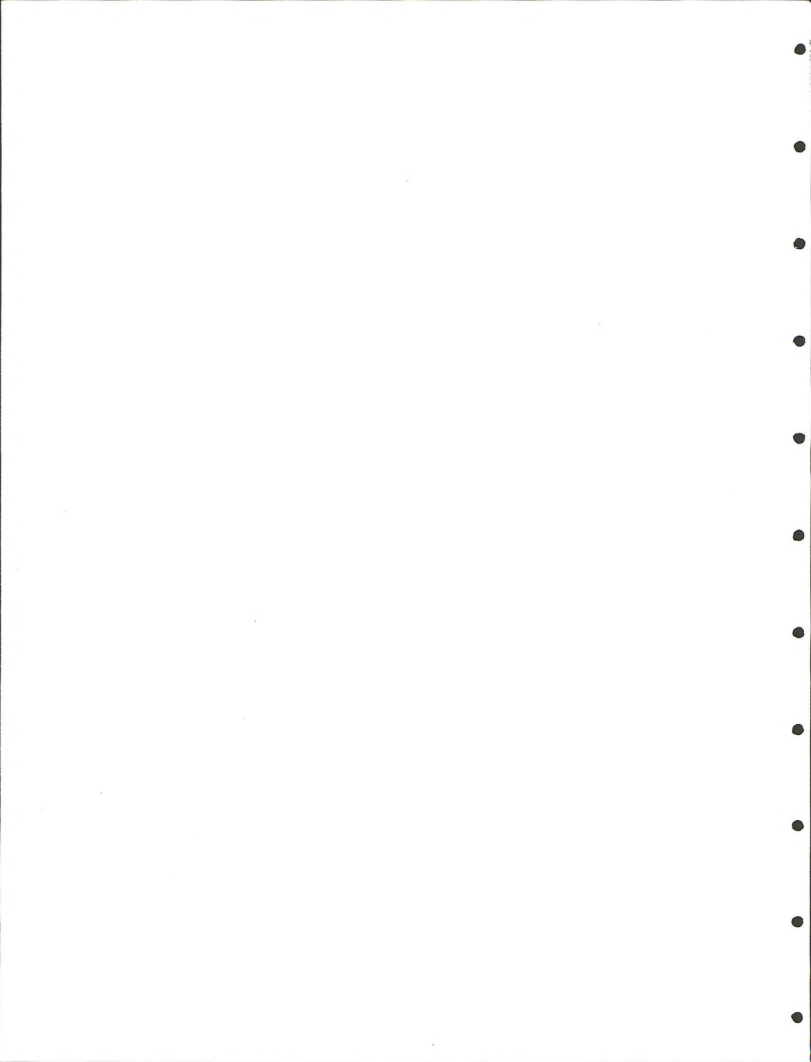
WITHDRAWAL. An action that restricts the use of public land and segregates the lands from some or all of the public land or mineral laws.



LITERATURE

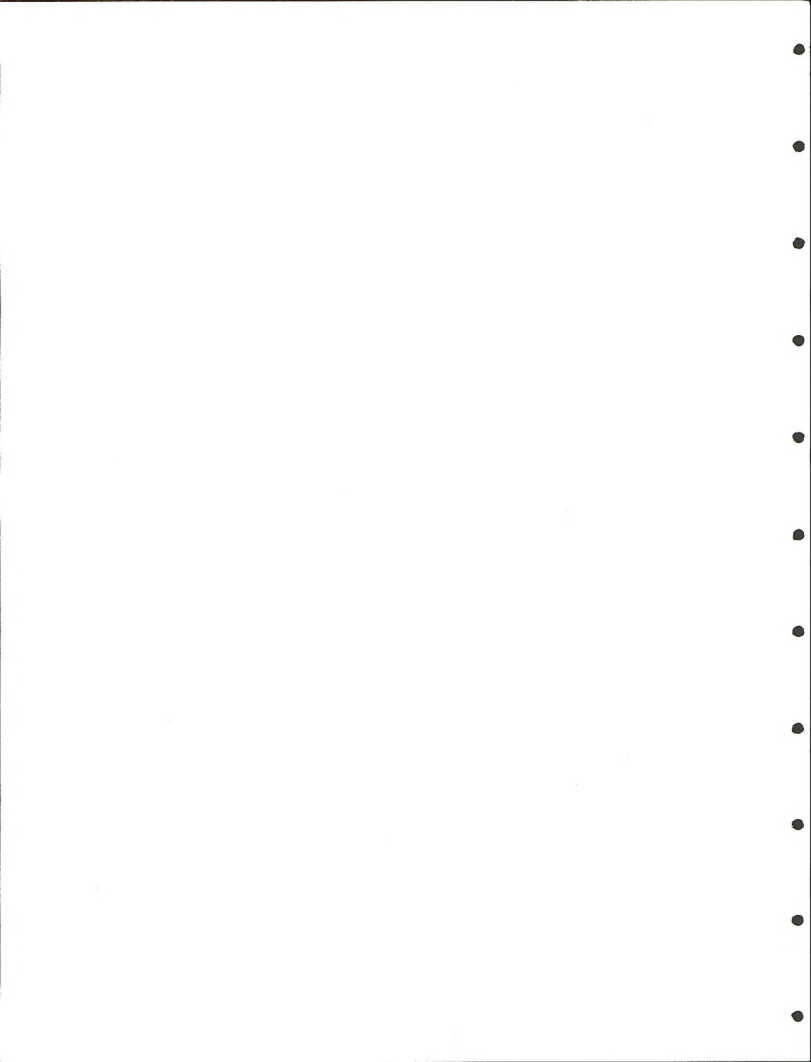
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APPENDIX 1

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Rock Springs, District Office

Rock Springs, Wyoming.

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

for the

PROPOSED SCAB CREEK WILDERNESS

AREA

Contains the management goals, the management situation, basic assumptions and the direction of management anticipated if the proposal is approved.

FEBRUARY, 1980

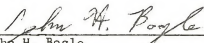
MANAGEMENT SUMMARY FOR THE PROPOSED
SCAB CREEK WILDERNESS AREA

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- III. MANAGEMENT SITUATION, BASIC ASSUMPTIONS, AND DIRECTION

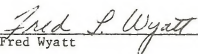
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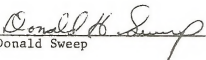
John H. Bogle

Outdoor Recreation Planner



Fred Wyatt

Pinedale Area Manager



Donald Sweep

Rock Springs District Manager

I. INTRODUCTION

The proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area contains 7,636 acres of rocky, steep, rough mountainous public lands in west-central Wyoming. These lands are located approximately 20 miles southeast of Pinedale, Wyoming. They are bordered on the east by the Bridger National Forest. This portion of the Bridger National Forest contains the 383,000-acre Bridger Wilderness. Exhibiting miles of trails, over a thousand lakes, numerous species of fish and wildlife, and a variety of natural features, the rugged and scenic Bridger Wilderness provides many outstanding recreational opportunities.

The area of national forest between the Bridger Wilderness and the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area is A RARE II Area which has been recommended by the President for designation as wilderness.

Pursuant to the Classification and Multiple Use Act of September 19, 1964, the lands in the existing Scab Creek Primitive Area were classified for retention and multiple-use management under two actions. These actions also segregated these lands from appropriation under the agricultural land laws, from sales under Section 2455 of the Revised Statutes, and from appropriation under the general mining laws.

Elevations in the proposed area range from nearly 7,400 feet to approximately 9,600 feet at the national forest boundary. Most of the annual precipitation is in the form of winter snows and late summer thunder showers. Vegetation of the area consists of lodgepole pine, limberpine, and Douglas Fir in the lower forested areas. Subalpine fir and Englemann spruce appear near the national forest. Sagebrush stands appear on open slopes, and grasses complete the vegetation in open parks and wet meadows.

All land within the proposed boundary is public land. The legal description and map of the Scab Creek area are on file in the Wyoming State Office, Cheyenne, Wyoming; the Rock Springs District Office, Rock Springs, Wyoming; and the Pinedale Resource Area Office in Pinedale, Wyoming.

This Scab Creek Management Summary is a statement of the policies and practices which are necessary to maintain the wilderness character and quality of the area. A detailed management plan will be developed if the area is designated as wilderness.

II. MANAGEMENT GOALS

The existing Scab Creek Primitive Area has been managed under the guidelines of Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 6221, and BLM Manual 6221. This Primitive Area has been managed to maintain the same quality as lands included in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The Bridger Wilderness Management Plan, developed by the Forest Service in 1975, provided additional guidance in management of the Scab Creek Primitive Area.

The Scab Creek Primitive Area Management Plan, patterned after the Bridger Wilderness Management Plan, has served as the management guidance for the area since 1975. This plan is available at the BLM, Pinedale Resource Area Office.

III. MANAGEMENT SITUATION, BASIC ASSUMPTIONS, AND DIRECTION

A. Wilderness Character

1. Situation

The area is natural, wild and undeveloped, and essentially removed from the effects of civilization. It offers a solitary or primitive and unconfined type of recreation. It also offers high scenic qualities, scientific and educational opportunities, and opportunities to view geological structures and ecological environments.

Certain intrusions by man have left their mark. Some of these include:

- a. Pollution - littering, trash, human and stock waste are problems.
- b. Signing - some BLM signing is evident.
- c. Trails - portions of some trails are not properly located.
- d. Fire control - the natural fire role has been interrupted as an ecological agent.

2. Basic Assumptions

- a. If fire is allowed to play a natural role, more natural plant succession and ecosystems will result.
- b. Opportunities will occur to make contact with wilderness area users prior to entry.
- c. Long-range planning will provide necessary information and direction to preserve and perpetuate the wilderness resources.
- d. Money and manpower will be less than needed for quality management over the next few years.

3. Management Direction

- a. Native plant and animal communities will be allowed to develop naturally.
- b. Nonconforming uses will be eliminated when opportunities arise.

- c. Users will be contacted whenever possible prior to entry. Contact, education, and brochures will be provided to help minimize administration within the area.
- d. Discourage hauling of hay or straw into the wilderness area.

B. Air and Noise

1. Situation

The air quality is excellent. Occasional wildfires and campfires cause some smoky conditions. Noise from overflying aircraft occurs infrequently.

2. Basic Assumptions

- a. Smoke may increase in the area from campfires.
- b. Numbers of overflying aircraft may increase.

3. Management Direction

The Primitive Area was recommended in 1978 to the State of Wyoming for Class I air quality designation.

C. Soils

1. Situation

Rock outcrops and large boulders are common to this area. Brown forest soils are common under the timber with podzolic, leached gray soils under the higher timbered areas. Parks and open areas may have developed brown to black organic soils. These soils are six to eight inches deep and often underlaid with bedrock. Most of this area can be associated with the glacial periods and massive ice sheets.

2. Basic Assumptions

- a. Recreational use will need to be planned in accordance with soil capabilities.
- b. Trail locations will have to be compatible with use and soil stability.
- c. The number of users is expected to increase which may result in additional detrimental soil impacts.

3. Management Direction

A survey of the area will be conducted to identify sites with stable soils suitable for use areas.

D. Water

1. Situation

Scab Creek, Silver Creek, several small lakes, numerous small ponds, and intermittent streams comprise the water holding and carrying features of the area. Most of the live streams are relatively clear except during peak runoff. A principal water feature is Silver Creek Falls.

2. Basic Assumptions

- a. Man- and animal-induced water pollution will continue.
- b. Watershed rehabilitation measures may be necessary in some areas.
- c. Watershed restoration will need to be compatible with wilderness values.

3. Management Direction

- a. To prevent water pollution, educate and require users to carry out all unburnable refuse.
- b. Allow no detergents, cleaning materials, or human wastes to enter surface waters.
- c. Where watershed rehabilitation measures are needed, use seeding (native species), brush piling, or other compatible measures.

E. Forests

1. Situation

Timber in the study area consists of lodgepole pine, limberpine, Douglas fir, Englemann spruce, and alpine fir. Some of the timber may be of commercial quality though access is quite difficult.

2. Basic Assumptions

- a. Timber will continue to contribute to the natural beauty in the area.
- b. The mountain pine beetle will continue to cause mortality of overmature lodgepole pine stands.
- c. As use increases, the cutting, limbing, and defacing of timber may become a serious problem.

3. Management Direction

- a. Commercial timber harvesting is not to be permitted in the wilderness area.
- b. Dead and down timber may be used for firewood.
- c. Use of wood fuel substitutes will be advised when dead and down wood becomes scarce.

F. Range

1. Situation

Cattle grazing is permitted in the existing primitive area. Two permittees are licensed to graze the area from May 1 to October 15.

Some grazing by stock animals does occur but mainly only during hunting season.

2. Basic Assumptions

- a. Livestock grazing will continue in the proposed wilderness area.
- b. More wilderness users will become critical of livestock grazing.
- c. Grazing demand for recreation use, at campsites in particular, will continue to increase.

3. Management Direction

- a. Should a conflict arise over grazing use and wilderness values, the area manager will resolve said conflicts as expeditiously as possible.
- b. Structures for livestock will not be permitted except as necessary; these structures will be designed to protect the wilderness character.
- c. Maximum number of stock per party will be the same as limited by the Forest Service.

C. Wildlife

1. Situation

The Scab Creek area provides habitat for many species of wildlife. Elk, deer, and moose receive the most attention as they are hunted yearly during seasons set by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Scab Creek, Silver

Creek, and Cutthroat Lake support fishable populations of cutthroat and brook trout. With increases in visitor use, the potential for disturbance of wildlife increases.

2. Basic Assumptions

- a. Wildlife will continue to have an important place in the wilderness area.
- b. Hunting and fishing will continue to be attractions to the area.

3. Management Direction

- a. Maintain cooperation and coordination for wildlife habitat management between the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the Bureau of Land Management.
- b. Encourage the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to monitor stresses on wildlife due to human activities.
- c. Hunting will continue to be allowed within the proposed wilderness area.

H. Minerals

1. Situation

No significant minerals have been identified within the proposed area. Pursuant to the C&MU Act, these lands were segregated from appropriation under the general mining laws. There are no oil and gas leases within the area boundary.

2. Basic Assumptions

Oil and gas leases will continue to be withheld until final wilderness determination is made.

3. Management Direction

- a. Geophysical operations will not be allowed within the proposed wilderness.
- b. Oil and gas leases will be withheld.

I. Recreation

1. Situation

The proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area offers what people have come to expect in search of a wilderness experience. Opportunities for fishing, hunting, and the viewing of scenery, zoological and botanical communities, and geology abound in the area. Hiking and horseback riding are also primary activities.

2. Basic Assumptions

- a. Visitor use may continue to increase until administrative limits are applied.
- b. Controlled distribution of people and recreation pack and saddle stock may be necessary to protect wilderness, watershed, and other values.
- c. On-site disposal of unburnable refuse will be an increasing problem.
- d. As use increases, studies will be needed to determine levels of use for the protection of wilderness values.

3. Management Direction

- a. Guidelines developed by the Forest Service for controlling sizes of groups and their use may be adopted by the Bureau.
- b. The Bureau will cooperate and coordinate efforts with the Forest Service in management of the proposed wilderness area so continuity of management exists on the Bridger Wilderness and the Scab Creek Wilderness Area.
- c. Inform visitors of regulations pertaining to wilderness area use.
- d. The program of encouraging "pack it in - pack it out" will continue.

J. Visitor Information Services

1. Situation

To enhance the wilderness experience and protect its values, maps and written information are essential for users. At present, none are available from the Bureau.

2. Basic Assumptions

Users will want and need information about use and enjoyment of the wilderness area.

3. Management Direction

- a. Adopt the "Wilderness Ethics" brochure used by the Forest Service on the Bridger Wilderness.
- b. Contact users prior to their entry into the wilderness area.
- c. Care must be taken to not encourage overuse which would destroy the wilderness character of the area.

K. Special Land Uses

1. Situation

Special use permits are issued to outfitters to meet the needs of some users.

2. Basic Assumptions

- a. Applications for special uses, both compatible and not compatible with wilderness values, will continue.
- b. Demands for outfitter base camps will continue.
- c. Organized groups and schools will continue to want to use the wilderness area.

3. Management Direction

- a. The Forest Service's Bridger-Teton Outfitters Policy will be adopted and its guidance followed.
- b. Temporary outfitter camps will not be allowed within the proposed wilderness area.

L. Transportation and Facilities

1. Situation

A section of the Lowline Trail (approximately 2½ miles) traverses the area from the trailhead to the national forest boundary. Other routes are available through the area but none are well marked. The existing trailhead facilities are minimal.

2. Basic Assumptions

- a. User demands for upgrading substandard trail portions and trailhead facilities will arise.
- b. Trail betterment to correct erosion and safety problems will become necessary.

3. Management Direction

- a. Maintain the existing trail to provide safe passage and minimize resource damage.
- b. Erosion control will receive high maintenance priority.
- c. Trailhead facilities will be improved to handle existing overuse. Additional improvements should not be built until carrying capacity is established.

M. Signing

1. Situation

There are few BLM signs in the existing primitive area.

2. Basic Assumptions

- a. Some users will want signs.
- b. There will be conflicting views on sign location and signing needs.

3. Management Direction

- a. Develop a signing plan for the wilderness area.
- b. Signs will be limited and similar to those used by the Forest Service on the Bridger Wilderness.

N. Safety

1. Situation

Wilderness area use has inherent hazards which cannot be avoided. Users will need to accept this responsibility when using the area.

2. Basic Assumptions

- a. As use increases, the likelihood of injury may increase.
- b. Users may ask for conveniences as safety items.

3. Management Direction

- a. Concentrate safety facilities to trails, stream crossings, and signing.
- b. Provide safety information through handouts, media, and user contact.
- c. The Bureau will extend full cooperation to the County Sheriff for search and rescue operations in the area.

O. Insects and Disease

1. Situation

Much timber in the area is overmature and susceptible to insects and disease. The bark beetle infestation of lodgepole pine is an example.

2. Basic Assumptions

- a. Insect and disease infestation will persist in the area.
- b. Demands to control infestations may be made.

3. Management Direction

Insect and plant disease infestations will be allowed to play their natural role.

P. Fire

1. Situation

The fire danger is generally low. Most fires are caused by lightning which is part of the natural environment.

It is readily apparent that fire has been an ecological force influencing plant succession and bringing about habitat diversity.

2. Basic Assumptions

- a. Risk of man-caused fires will increase as visitor use increases.
- b. Some people will continue to favor fire suppression in wilderness areas.
- c. Fires can improve rather than degrade many wilderness values.

3. Management Direction

- a. Prepare a fire management plan for the proposed wilderness area which will:
 - (1) Establish specific areas where naturally-caused fires will be permitted to burn.
 - (2) Suppress all man-caused fires.
 - (3) Establish high value areas where fire suppression will be allowed.
 - (4) Be coordinated with the objectives of the Bridger Wilderness fire management plan.
- b. Motorized vehicles (excluding aircraft) will not be used to suppress wildfires unless loss to life or private land is eminent.

Q. Research

1. Situation

The proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area offers many opportunities for research studies.

2. Basic Assumptions

- a. Research studies will benefit both short- and long-term wilderness area management.
- b. The need for research will increase with increase in use.

3. Management Direction

Allow research studies as long as they do not adversely affect the wilderness values of the area.

R. Administrative and other Structures

1. Situation

There are no administrative structures in the area. Remnants of old cabins are still evidenced.

2. Basic Assumptions

Administration without permanent structures is more compatible with the wilderness resources.

3. Management Direction

- a. Preserve and stabilize the historic cabins.
- b. Develop a historical profile of the area.

S. Law Enforcement

1. Situation

The enforcement of rules and regulations is impractical without authority. A certain number of motorized vehicles presently enter the proposed area but access is limited.

2. Basic Assumptions

- a. Users will violate rules and regulations.
- b. Enforcement is a necessary management tool.

3. Management Direction

- a. Inform the users of wilderness area rules and ethics and encourage observance.
- b. Close and rehabilitate existing jeep trails.

T. Aircraft

1. Situation

Aircraft landings have not been made in the area.

2. Basic Assumptions

Requests for aircraft landings will be made.

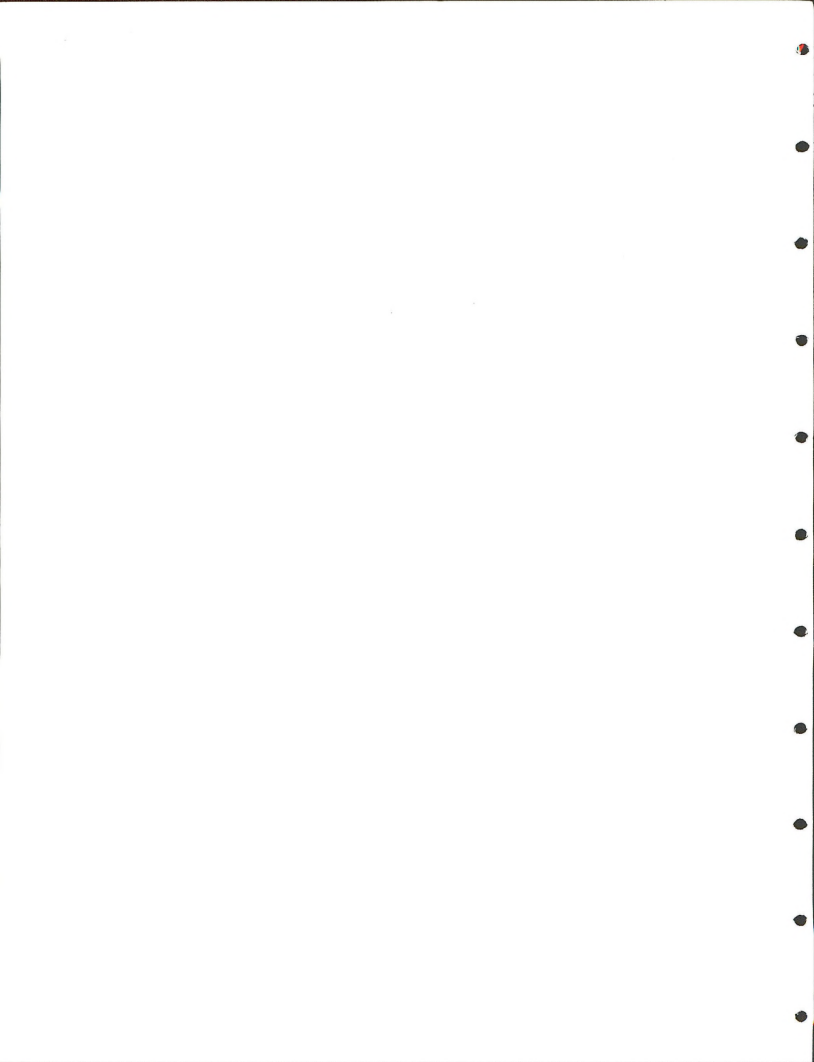
3. Management Direction

Aircraft use in the area will be allowed only for emergency evacuation of injured or seriously ill and for fire suppression.

U. Coordination with Other Agencies and Adjoining Lands

1. Situation

The proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area is bordered on the north and east by a portion of the Bridger National Forest which is recommended for addition to the Bridger Wilderness, on the south by private and State land, and by private and other public lands to the west.



APPENDIX 2

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

OF THE

PROPOSED SCAB CREEK

WILDERNESS AREA



APPENDIX 2

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED SCAB CREEK WILDERNESS AREA

The legal description of the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area is:

Sixth Principal Meridian, Wyoming

- T. 32 N., R. 106 W.,
Section 4, All;
Section 5, All;
Section 6, All;
Section 7, Lots 3 to 8 inclusive, NE1/4NE1/4, NE1/4NW1/4;
Section 8, Lots 1 and 2;
Section 9, NE1/4.
- T. 33 N., R. 106 W.,
Section 17, All;
Section 18, Lots 1 and 2, NE1/4, E1/2NW1/4, NE1/4SW1/4, N1/2SE1/4;
Section 19, S1/2SE1/4NE1/4, NE1/4SE1/4;
Section 20, All;
Section 21, S1/2;
Section 28, All;
Section 29, N1/2, SE1/4, NW1/4SW1/4, E1/2SW1/4;
Section 32, Lots 2, 3, and 4, NE1/4, N1/2SE1/4;
Section 33, All.
- T. 32 N., R. 107 W.,
Section 1, Lots 6, 7, 8, and 13, SW1/4SE1/4;
Section 12, Lots 1 and 2, W1/2NE1/4, NE1/4NW1/4.
- T. 33 N., R. 107 W.,
Section 13, N1/2;
Section 14, NE1/4 (excluding waters of Soda Lake), NE1/4NW1/4 (excluding waters of Soda Lake).



APPENDIX 3

SOIL CLASSIFICATION TABLE

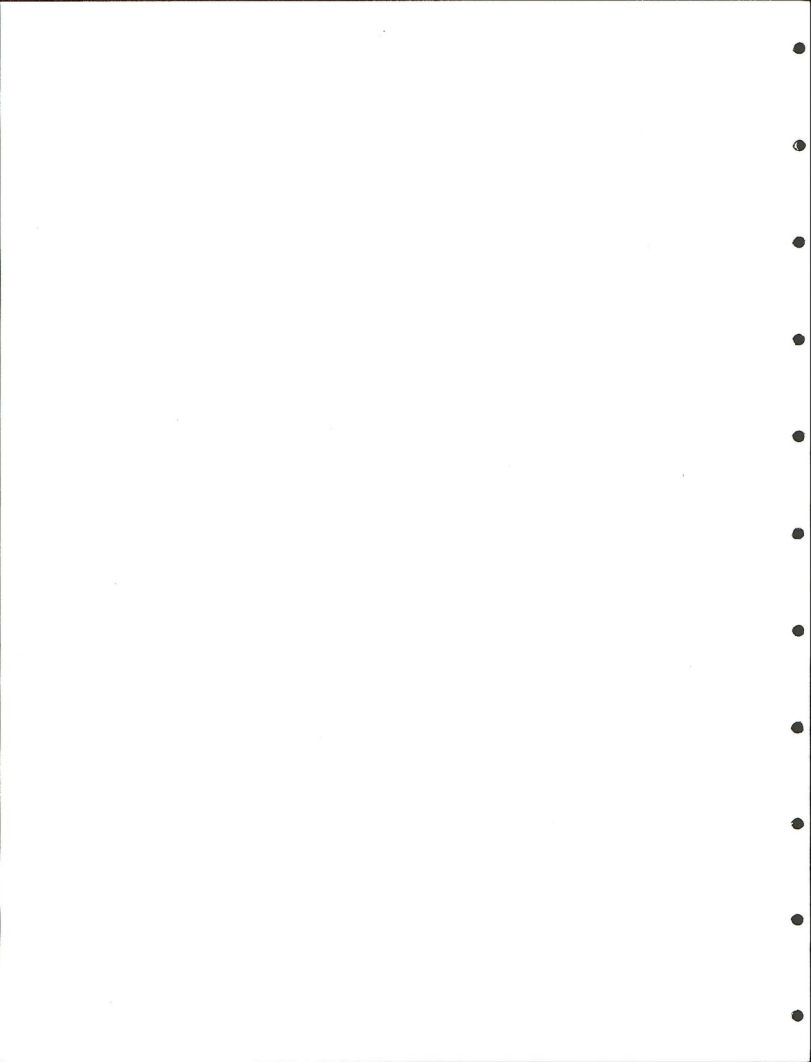


Table 1.

SOIL CLASSIFICATION ACCORDING TO LANDFORMS, -So LIMITATIONS, AND CAPABILITY CLASS

Mapping Unit	Classification	Local Roads and Streets	Camp Areas	Picnic Areas	Paths & Trails	Shallow Excavations	Classes Determining Phase
NM 550 25% acres	*Typic cryoborolls loamy-skeletal mixed, sandy-cryaquolls Hatic cryaquolls coarse loamy mixed, typic cryaquepts fine sandy-sialite, Cryofibrils	Severe-floods, wetness	Severe-wetness; floods	Severe-wetness; floods	Severe-wetness	Severe-wetness, small stones, large stones	
LH 550 acres	Aric pacific cryoborolls loamy-skeletal mixed, typic cryoborolls typic cryoborolls typic cryoborolls sandy-skeletal mixed, typic cryoborolls Aric cryoborolls coarse loamy mixed, typic cryochrepts loamy-skeletal mixed	3-15%: Severe-large stones 15%: Severe-slope, large stones 8-15%: moderate- large stones 6-15%: moderate- large stones 15%: severe slope	3-8%: moderate- small, large stones 8-15%: moderate- small, large stones 15%: severe slope	3-8%: moderate- small, large stones 8-15%: moderate- small, large stones 15%: severe slope	3-15%: moderate- small stones, large stones 15-25%: moderate- large stones 25%: severe-slope	3-15%: severe- large stones 15%: severe- slope, large stones	3-30% 30%
GU 2650 acres	*Typic cryoborolls loamy-skeletal mixed, sandy-skeletal mixed, loamy-skeletal mixed, Entic cryambrepts loamy-skeletal mixed, typic cryochrepts coarse-loamy mixed, Rock outcrop	Severe-slope, depth to rock	severe slope	severe slope	20-25%: moderate- slope small stones 25%: severe slope	Severe-slope, depth to rock	
DN 600 acres	*Typic cryoborolls loamy-skeletal mixed, Picnic cryoborolls loamy-skeletal mixed, Aric cryoborolls loamy mixed, Rock outcrop	2-8%: moderate- large stones 8-15%: moderate-slope, large stones 15%: severe-slope	2-15%: severe- large stones 15%: severe- slope, large & small stones	2-15%: severe- large stones 15%: severe- slope, large & small stones	2-25%: severe-large & small stones 25%: severe-slope large & small stones	2-15%: severe- large stones, small stones 15%: severe- slope, large stones, small stones	
MS 2650 acres	*Lithic cryochrepts loamy skeletal mixed, typic cryochrepts typic loamy mixed, typic cryochrepts coarse loamy mixed, typic cryoborolls loamy-skeletal mixed, Aquic cryoborolls fine loamy mixed, lentic cryochrepts loamy mixed, Rock outcrop	0-15%: severe-depth to rock 15%: severe-slope, depth to rock	0-8% moderate- small stones 8-15% moderate- slope, small stones 15% severe- slope	0-8% moderate- small stones 8-15% moderate- slope, small stones 15% severe- slope	0-15%: moderate- small stones 15-25%: moderate- slope small stones 25%: severe-slope	0-15%: severe- slope, large stones, small stones	0-6% 6-30% 30%

SOIL CLASSIFICATION ACCORDING TO LANDFORMS, USE LIMITATIONS, AND CAPABILITY CLASS

Woodland Suitability

A 3-2

APPENDIX 4

INVENTORY OF SCAB CREEK STUDY AREA

FOR

PROPOSED THREATENED OR ENDANGERED PLANTS





United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

State Office
P. O. Box 1828
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001

RECEIVED
ROCK SPRINGS
BLM DISTRICT
OCT 18 1979

IN REPLY REFER TO

7170 (932)

OCT 16 1979

Memorandum

To: District Manager, Rock Springs

From: State Director

Subject: Inventory of Scab Creek Study Area for Proposed Threatened or Endangered Plants (PTEP) During the Summer Field Season, 1979

Background

On July 6-12 and August 21-22, 1979, Dr. James G. Saulmon, WSO Botanist, conducted an inventory of the PTEP's thought to occur in the Scab Creek Study Area.

The Scab Creek Study Area (sometimes called Scab Creek Instant Study Area) consists of 9,400 acres located in Sublette County, Wyoming. This study area is composed of two parts: (a) the Scab Creek Primitive Area designated in June 1975 (6,680 acres) and (b) an additional 2,720 acres.

This inventory of the Scab Creek Study Area was performed to comply with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA).

Description of the Scab Creek Instant Study Area

After a meeting of Bureau resource specialists held at the Pinedale Resource Area Headquarters on March 2, 1979, BLM reached the following decisions:

1. A partial inventory of the Scab Creek Study Area should be done as described in the memo to the Rock Springs District Manager. (Enclosure 8)
2. The WSO Botanist would do the inventory for the PTEP suspected of occurring in the Scab Creek Study Area.



AA-2
Save Energy and You Serve America!

Scab Creek Study Area, located at T. 32, 33 N., R. 106, 107 W., is situated about 25 road miles southeast of Pinedale, Wyoming, or about 15 road miles northeast of Boulder, Wyoming. This study area occurs in west central Wyoming on the eastern side of the Upper Green River Valley and on the west slope of the Wind River Range.

The elevation of the Scab Creek Study Area varies from about 8,000 feet to 9,000 feet. The topography of the study area varies from steep granite outcrops with lodgepole pine to rolling hills covered with sagebrush. The study area is interspersed with small ponds, meadows, and meandering, sometimes intermittent, streams.

Criteria Used to Delineate Inventory Areas and Times

1. Probable PTEP habitats in Scab Creek Study Area

Based on recommendations of BLM resource specialists and botanists familiar with the flora of Wyoming, the decision was made to limit the inventory to the following PTEP's during their anthesis (optimum identification period according to IM WY-79-214):

Antennaria arcuata (moist meadows during 7/25-8/25)

Astragalus drabelliformis (open ridges and slopes at 6,900 to 7,600 feet during 6/10-7/12)

Astragalus paysonii (burned over sites in forested areas at 6,000 feet and above during 7/01-7/30)

Limestone pockets are often habitats for PTEP as noted in the letters enclosed from Robert Dorn of DEQ, et al. However, no limestone was identified in the Scab Creek Study area on URA maps and other geologic data. Thus, the decision was to inventory such areas only if they were encountered in the field.

2. Optimum dates for the inventory

Selection of inventory dates was based on the following three considerations:

- (a) The July 1, 1980, deadline for reporting instant study areas to the President.
- (b) The mid-June to mid-September accessibility dates of the Scab Creek Study Area.
- (c) The optimum identification periods (anthesis) for the PTEP's considered to be most likely to occur in the Scab Creek Study Area.

Description of the Inventory of the PTEP Suspected of Occurring in the
Scab Creek Instant Study Area

Planning:

Actual preparations for this inventory began in late 1978. Coordination among the WSO, Rock Springs District, and Pinedale Resource Area Headquarters occurred through trips to Pinedale and Rock Springs, memoranda, and personal communications. Letters were sent to botanical experts familiar with the flora of Wyoming (enclosure 1). Extrapolation of the probability of finding certain PTEP's, their likely habitat, and their anthesis dates for Scab Creek Study Area was based on BLM's sources (URA, maps, etc.), recommendations from botanical experts, and personal communication from individuals having firsthand knowledge of the Scab Creek Study Area.

Methodology Used:

The decision to do a visual (ocular) inventory of the Scab Creek Study Area was based on past success with the traditional ocular inventory and diversity of the terrain of the Scab Creek Study Area.

The inventory was conducted during two time periods: July 6-12, 1979, and August 21-22, 1979.

Prior to entering the Scab Creek Study Area, verbal approval from two private landowners was obtained to access specific areas in the central and southern portions of the Scab Creek Study Area.

A determination of probable habitats was made using topographic maps and plotting on mylar overlays from aerial photographs. Also, an aerial map of the Scab Creek Study Area was consulted.

During the first day of the inventory, secondary (dirt) roads were traversed by vehicle where possible and perimeter areas were accessed where possible. During the remainder of the inventory, the terrain was inventoried by walking and climbing the established trails, game trails, and areas where no trails existed. The study area can be roughly apportioned into northern, central, and southern portions along its long axis.

In the northern portion of the Scab Creek Study Area, access to the camping area was gained via vehicle. From the camping area, access to the various lakes, streams, and other habitats was gained via foot trails.

In the central portion of the Scab Creek Study Area, access to the Vernon Mrac property was gained via vehicle. From the Mrac property, access to the higher elevations and various aquatic areas was gained by hiking the intermittent trail and areas located by compass and prominent terrain features.

In the southern portion of the Scab Creek Study Area, access into the ford area of the Tibbles property was gained via vehicle. From the ford area, access to the area to be inventoried was gained on foot via dirt roads, established trails, and areas devoid of trails.

Findings:

Soils/geology. There were no pockets of limestone found in the Scab Creek Study Area during this inventory.

Habitats. During this ocular inventory of the Scab Creek Study Area, a variety of habitats and vegetation was found:

<u>Habitat</u>	<u>Vegetation</u>
Snow melt areas	Aspen
Wet meadows	Grasses, sedges
Dry slopes	Sagebrush
Wet areas in the vicinity of moving streams	Grasses Sedges Willows
Burned areas (disturbed areas)	Lodgepole pine
Granite ledges and water falls	Ferns

The following plant taxa were found and specimens were collected:

<u>Plant Species</u>	<u>Where Collected</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>Antennaria microphylla</u>	T. 33 N., R. 107 W., Section 14	7/7/79
<u>Antennaria corymbosa</u>		
<u>Aquilegia caerulea</u>	T. 33 N., R. 106 W., Sections 17, 18	7/8/79
<u>Aquilegia flavescens</u>		
<u>Arabis microphylla</u>	T. 33 N., R. 106 W., Sections 17, 18	7/8/79
<u>Eriogonum umbellatum</u> var. <u>majus</u>	T. 33 N., R. 107 W., Sections 24, 25	7/6/79
<u>Penstemon strictus</u>	T. 33N., 106 W., Section 19, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$	7/7/79

Saxifraga odontoloma

NOTE: Located in marked sites along the Toboggan Lake Trail in moist areas near flowing and intermittent streams; this specimen superficially resembled Sullivantia hapemanii.

Summary of Findings:

There was no evidence of proposed threatened or endangered plants found in the Scab Creek Study Area during this inventory.

REFERENCES

The following reference materials were consulted while preparing this report of the inventory of the Scab Creek Study Area:

BLM Sources

Letters from BLM sent to botanical experts familiar with the flora of Wyoming (enclosure 1).

Topographic map of Scab Creek, Wyoming, 1968, N4245-W109390/7.5 (enclosure 2).

Memorandum from District Manager, Rock Springs, to State Director (932), Attention: Jim Saulmon, Subject: Threatened or Endangered Plants, Scab Creek Wilderness Study Area. Date: March 22, 1979, (enclosure 3).

Wilderness Inventory Handbook. Policy, Direction, Procedures, and Guidance for Conducting Wilderness Inventory on the Public Lands. September 27, 1978. U. S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. 30 pages.

Wilderness Program in Wyoming. BLM's Initial Inventory Decisions. United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office. U. S. Government Printing Office: 1979-680-476. 13 pages. Advertising Supplement to: Casper Star Tribune, Cheyenne Tribune Eagle, Rawlins Daily Times, Rock Springs Rocket/Miner, Sheridan Press, Northern Wyoming Daily News, Gillette News Record, Riverton Ranger, Laramie Boomerang.

Wyoming State Office's Notebook of Proposed Threatened or Endangered Plants of Wyoming (includes IM 79-64 and WY-79-214).

URA-2 Geology & Soils .33 Sublette PU#28 Scab Creek Supplement. 12/22/78 C. Reed, 12/22/78 C. Voigt.

Books

- Benson, Lyman. 1962. Plant Taxonomy. The Ronald Press Company, New York. 494 pages.
- Dorn, Robert. 1977. Manual of the Vascular Plants of Wyoming. 2 volumes. Garland Publishing, Inc., New York & London. 1,498 pages.
- Hitchcock, Leo C. and Arthur Cronquist. 1973. Flora of the Pacific Northwest. An Illustrated Manual. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 730 pages.
- Mueller-Dombois, Dieter and Heinz Ellenberg. 1974. Aims and Methods of Vegetation Ecology. John Wiley & Sons, Publishers. New York. 547 pages.
- Oosting, Henry J. 1959. The Study of Plant Communities. Second Edition. W. H. Freeman and Company. San Francisco. 440 pages.

Rocky Mountain Herbarium

Rocky Mountain Herbarium collections of proposed threatened or endangered plants of Wyoming. University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming.
Dr. Ron Hartman, Curator.

Other Sources

- Letter from Robert Dorn of the Department of Environmental Quality, State of Wyoming, January 18, 1979 (enclosure 5).
- Letter from the Rocky Mountain Herbarium, Laramie, Wyoming, January 23, 1979 (enclosure 6).

Recommendations

Based on all existing information and this ocular reconnaissance survey of sites thought to be representative of PTEP habitats in the Scab Creek Study Area, the area is cleared for the presence of PTEP.

Enclosures (9)



APPENDIX 5

SECTION 7 CONSULTATION

WITH

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE





United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

State Office
P. O. Box 1828
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001

IN REPLY REFER TO

6840 (932)

JUL 18 1979

Memorandum

To: District Manager, Rock Springs

From: Chief, Division of Resources

Subject: Section 7 Consultation--Scab Creek Instant Wilderness Study Area

Enclosed is the official response from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to your consultation request of April 18, 1979, on the peregrine falcon in the Scab Creek Instant Wilderness Study Area.

Enclosure

RECEIVED
BLM ROCK SPRINGS
DISTRICT

JUL 20 79



A5-2
Save Energy and You Serve America!



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

JUL 12 1979

IN REPLY REFER TO:

FA/SE/BLM--Scab Creek

MAILING ADDRESS:
Post Office Box 86486
Denver Federal Center
Denver, Colorado 80225

STREET LOCATION:
134 Union Blvd.
Lakewood, Colorado 80228

JUL 10 1979

MEMORANDUM

To: State Director, Bureau of Land Management
Cheyenne, Wyoming

From: Acting Regional Director, Region 6
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Denver, Colorado

Subject: Section 7 Consultation--Scab Creek Instant Wilderness Study
Area, Wyoming

This is our biological opinion in response to your April 18, 1979, request for formal consultation concerning the effects of wilderness designation of the subject study area on the endangered American peregrine falcon. We have examined the project in accordance with the Section 7 Interagency Cooperation Regulations (50 CFR, 43 FR 870) and the Endangered Species Act Amendments of 1978.

It is our biological opinion that wilderness designation of the Scab Creek Study Area is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the American peregrine falcon and may in fact promote its conservation. Our opinion is based on the following considerations.

The area under review for inclusion into the National Wilderness System, totaling 9,400 acres, consists of 6,680-acre Scab Creek Primitive Area and an additional 2,720 acres. Ranging in elevation from 8,000 to 9,000 feet, it is an inaccessible mountainous region with several small glacial ponds and lakes. The predominate vegetation is mixed aspen-conifer with small meadow and sagebrush parks.

Although there appear to be no known sightings of peregrines or historical eyries within the study area, it has not been surveyed for peregrine activities. Since peregrine falcons have historically nested in the Wind River Range, and the Scab Creek Study Area is thought to contain suitable nesting habitat (Oakleaf 1979 pers. comm.), our opinion is based on the assumption that peregrines may be present in the area.



A5-3

Save Energy and You Serve America!

The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in its February 26, 1979, biological opinion on the effects of wilderness area designation subsequent to Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) on the bald eagle and American and Arctic peregrine falcons concluded that this designation on National Forests is not likely to jeopardize these species. Although wilderness designation often increases the level of non-motorized recreational use and related disturbance, the problems associated with backcountry recreation are considered to be far less than those associated with campgrounds, timber cutting, and commercial activities permitted in non-wilderness areas. The undisturbed conditions usually occurring in wilderness areas, though not necessarily sufficient to ensure the survival and recovery of threatened and endangered species, will often promote their conservation. The FWS opinion concluded that the perpetuation of some areas in an undeveloped state would have value for peregrine conservation, particularly for less tolerant individuals at marginal nesting sites.

The Rocky Mountain/Southwestern Peregrine Falcon Recovery Plan (Rocky Mountain/Southwestern Peregrine Falcon Recovery Team 1977) states that one-third to one-half of historic eyries are uninhabitable due to human encroachment and habitat alteration, and lists protection of nesting peregrines and their habitat as one of the top priorities. The recovery plan recognizes "that habitat loss was among the critical factors causing the peregrine's decline; therefore, habitat preservation is essential to maintain or reestablish the peregrine into its former range. Because some of the presently unoccupied habitats are unsuitable for reoccupancy by the peregrines, it will be necessary to upgrade and protect other habitats so that population expansion can take place." Although wilderness designation usually precludes habitat enhancement activities and results in communities of primarily climax vegetation, the peregrine is not dependent on the maintenance of any particular successional stage and therefore should not be adversely affected.

It is therefore our opinion that inclusion of the Scab Creek Study Area into the National Wilderness System is not likely to jeopardize the peregrine falcon, but rather should promote its conservation. This action is also compatible with objectives outlined in the peregrine recovery plan.

This completes the formal consultation process for the Scab Creek Instant Wilderness Study Area. If additional species are listed or if conditions of the proposed work change, consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service should be reinitiated.

We appreciate your interest and cooperation in meeting our joint responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act.

Danny M. Ryan

REFERENCES

- Okleaf, Bob. 1979. Personal communication. Non-game biologist,
Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Lander, Wyoming
- Rocky Mountain/Southwestern Peregrine Falcon Recovery Team. 1977.
American Peregrine Falcon Recovery Plan (Rocky Mountain Southwest
Populations). USDI Recovery Plan. 183 pp.

APPENDIX 6

CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

AND

106 COMPLIANCE





United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

State Office
P. O. Box 1828
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001

IN REPLY REFER TO

8140 (931)

SEP 26 1979

Memorandum

To: District Manager, Rock Springs
From: Chief, Division of Resources
Subject: 106 Compliance

Enclosed for your use are the comments received from the State Historic Preservation Officer concerning the Scab Creek Wilderness Area and the Point of Rocks-South Pass City Stage Road.

W. Leonard

Enclosure

RECEIVED
BLM ROCK SPRINGS
DISTRICT

SEP 27 '79



A6-2

Save Energy and You Serve America!



WYOMING RECREATION COMMISSION
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
REVIEW AND COMPLIANCE

Interdisciplinary Staff Comments

Archeology • History • Historical Architecture • Recreation Planning

TO: John Carlson
FROM: Tom Larson Associate State Archeologist
DATE: August 14, 1979
RE: BLM Scab Creek Wilderness Area

I concur on the three points listed in the BLM letter of August 1, 1979.





THE STATE OF WYOMING

ED HERSCHLER
GOVERNOR

Wyoming Recreation Commission

604 EAST 25TH STREET

CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82002

COMMISSION OFFICERS

MRS. ROBERT FRISBY
VICE PRESIDENT

2007 Federal Building
Cheyenne 82001

LAWSON SCHWOPE
TREASURER
900 Fayer Avenue
Cheyenne 82001

JAN L. WILSON

Director

777-7695

September 7, 1979

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WICK KILMER

Box 51

Lusk 82225

Dan Baker, Director
State Office
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 1828
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001

RE: 1792 (931) Scab Creek Wilderness Area

Dear Mr. Baker:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this project.

I have enclosed comments from Tom Larson, Associate State Archeologist, indicating his concurrence with your recommendations concerning the area.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact this office.

Sincerely,

Jan L. Wilson, Director and
State Historic Preservation Officer

by: John F. Carlson, Chief
Resources Division

JLW:JFC:klm
Encls.

APR 11 1980



United States Department of the Interior

IN REPLY REFER TO

1792 (432)

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

District Office

Box 1869

Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901

Jan Wilson
Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer
Wyoming Recreation Commission
604 East 25th Street
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Dear Ms. Wilson:

In April of 1979 Peter M. Laudeman, District Archeologist of the Rock Springs District, submitted a report of a stratified random sample survey done in the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area to the State Historic Preservation Officer. The wilderness study area outlined at the time of this survey was approximately 10,000 acres, the area presently under consideration for proposed wilderness is approximately 8,000 acres. Of the lands sampled in the survey 1,680 acres of the original 2,080 acres remain in the proposed wilderness area (see map 1). This means approximately 21% of the proposed wilderness area has been inventoried. The methodology of this inventory is described in the April 1979 report of Peter M. Laudeman.

A summary of the prehistoric sites inventoried in this survey is as follows:

1. Temporary site number 18-1 located in NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 18, T. 33 N., R. 106 W., was a small lithic scatter from which seven chert flakes were collected. Most flakes showed evidence of exposure to heat most likely as a result of forest fire, and some showed evidence of secondary tool use.
2. Temporary site number 12-1 located in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 12, T. 32 N., R. 107 W., contained a single flake.
3. Temporary site number 33-1 located in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 33, T. 32 N., R. 106 W., contained an isolated tool fragment, a bi-face of grey chert.
4. Temporary site number 5-1 located in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 5, T. 32 N., R. 106 W., was an isolated side notched point found in a game trail.



5. Temporary site number 4-1 located in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 4, T. 32 N., R. 106 W., was a small lithic scatter. No diagnostics were recovered from this site.

None of these prehistoric sites were felt to be of sufficient quality to be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic places. Additional evaluation of these sites is not warranted given the paucity of surface material.

Three historic sites are known within the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness Area. From North to South these are the Struggle-Up Springs Cabin, the Jaycox Cabin and the Sagebrush Basin Cabin. All three are in varying stages of deterioration and none are habitable since all have collapsed roofs and the walls have partially collapsed.

Historic information about the cabins is sketchy and totally dependant on local informants from Pinedale. The Jaycox Cabin, Struggle-up Springs Cabin and the Sagebrush Basin Cabin were all known to, have been used as a base for logging operations until at least the 1920s. Some were used after that for logging and as cattle camps during round-up. Precise information about which cabins were used has been lost as informants have died. Since the Struggle-up Springs Cabin was the last to collapse it can be assumed that it was used until very recently.

One local informant suggests that the Jaycox Cabin may be the oldest in the area and date to the early trapping and trading period. There is no direct evidence to either support or refute this claim. The name Jaycox came from a logger, Guy Jaycox, who horse-logged until about 1910.

The locations of these cabins are:

Sagebrush Basin Cabin - R. 106 W., T. 32 N., Section 6, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

Jaycox Cabin - R. 106 W., R. 33 N., Section 29, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

Struggle-up Springs Cabin - R. 106 W., T. 33 N., Section 18, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$

None of the historic sites encountered in the proposed Scab Creek Wilderness area are felt to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Nominations to the Register are not anticipated.

No disturbance of any kind is anticipated from the proposed designation as wilderness. Rather, it is anticipated that potential impacts from off-road vehicle use, mineral development and logging will be averted by the wilderness designation since none of these activities will be permitted nor have been permitted since the area was designated as a Primitive Area in 1975. The designation as a wilderness area provides excellent protection of all cultural resources in the proposed area since none of the most potentially damaging actions will be permitted, and such designation does not preclude opportunities for further research as long as any actions are conducted within wilderness guidelines.

The potential for National Register sites in unsurveyed area of the proposed wilderness designation seems low in view of the survey conducted by Laudeman in 1979 and that conducted by Frison in 1974. Frison's model suggests prehistoric inhabitants seemed to prefer the lower elevation lake habitats and areas with broad stream valleys. Laudeman's report concurs with this hypothesis. No other historic cabins or structures are present.

Concurrence is requested on the following points:

1. None of the sites reported in Laudeman's report (1979) and outlined in this letter are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
2. That the designation of the Scab Creek Area as Wilderness will act to preserve cultural resources rather than adversely impact them.
3. That in any Wilderness, in view of the preserving nature of wilderness designation a 20% to 25% stratified sample of the area is adequate inventory for such designations.

Response from your office would be appreciated by August 31, 1979 so that your comments may be used in the preparation of the Scab Creek Environmental Statement being written by the Bureau of Land Management.

Sincerely yours,

State Director

Enclosure

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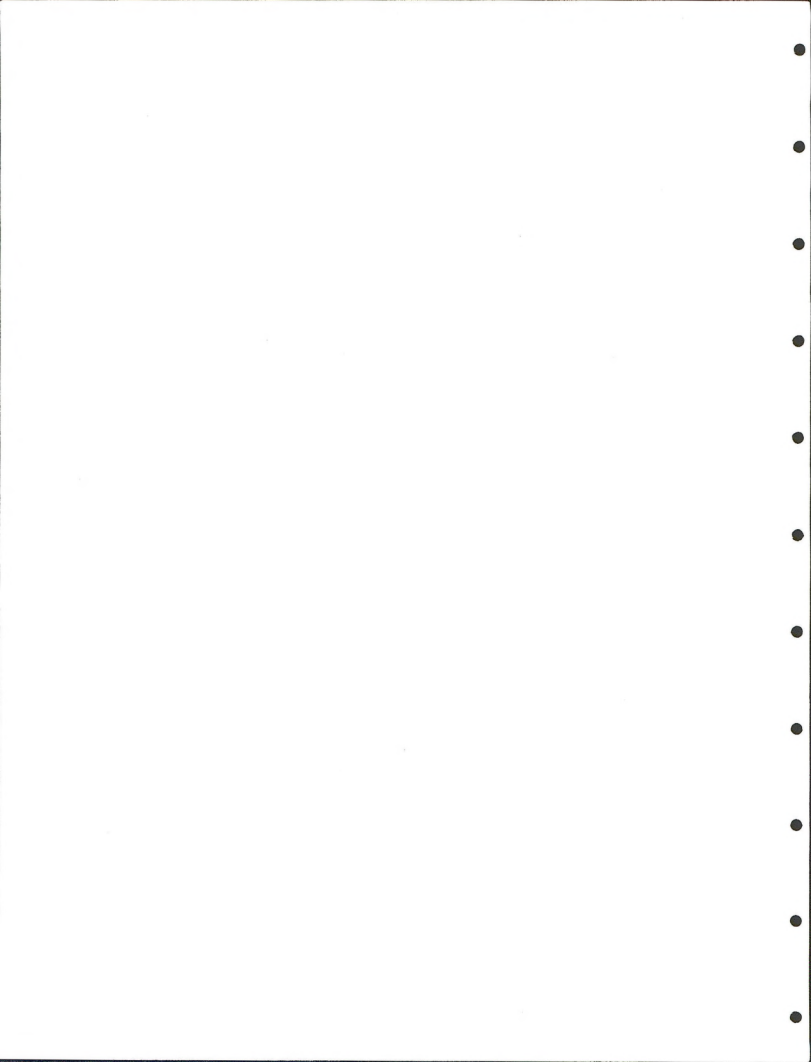
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